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BRUMFIELD FAMILY LETTERS

1817 1880

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[OHIO, INDIANA, ILLINOIS & IOWA]

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RIDGEVILLE - IND

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(Note: the first name opposite the letter number is the writer. The second name is the recipient of the letter)

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2a. Thomas Bloomfield(Brumfield) to his brother David.

(2)

Centerville(ind.)Dec. 20th 1844.

Dear Brother---

not having an oppertunity of coming myself to your part of the country. I send this by Wm Jesse Neal- and if you have recd any money for me from Virginia by W. Claypool I wish you would send it by the bearer and this shall be your recept except for the amount sent- I wish you also to send the papers you hold of mine if you think proper---

in complying with the above will oblige

yours ect.

Thomas Bloomfield.

Superscription David Bloomfield ,New Lancaster, Ohio.

LETTERS FROM THE BRUMFIELD FAMILY.

Note many of these letters come from the collection of Strother Brumfield, preserved by his daughter India Brumfield.

1. March 29th-1817

Dear Son: (Most Probably Wm Tallman Brumfield)

Recd. your last letter dated after my ----- to you. After your *mothers death just a few days before Christmas I have often thought of writing to you but must confess I have been very slothful in not writing sooner. We are all in good health at this time thanks be to the God of Mercy for his many blessings we receive from day to day and an inhopes that this may find you in the same situation We have had a cold winter and snow till this month we have had two deep snows but not lasting ones. Your Brothers Thomas and Samuel Brumfield is in the mountains this 3 or 4 weeks boiling sugar we made a quantity last season. Your brother Jesse has gone to Joseph Horn to learn the mill wright trade. He went the first of Feb. latt. George Christman and wife are both dead he diedthe last of August the old lady died the last of January Elmer Savage has died lately Samuel M.C. Williams aou county clerk- no accounts from Solomon since I wrote you before- your uncle James Tallman and his daughter Rebecca was in with us this winter & your uncle Benjamin has been in the State of Ohio & Kentucky- just returned home-- your Grand Father* & Mother with all our relations were well when he left there 3rd April- I have begun to finish my letter- Benjamin Tallman came with his wife on Tuesday last -- they were all well--- the boys have just returned from the sugar camp-- They have made about two hundred ---

We are well at this time-- please to write to me by the time of our election which will take place by _____X_____

I am and remain your loving father

David Brumfield

N.B. Give my love and compliments to Brother Jno & all his farily.

** (Son) Tallman & Dinah (Brone) Tallman.

Rockingham Co., Va., 3rd April 1817.

(The original of the above in posession of Mrs Katherine (Brumfield) Mc Ginty, Mansfield, Ohio.

* Patience (Tallman) Brumfield d. 1816-7-21.

2. Letter from Henry and Mary Longhrear to the daughter and son-in-law of Mary Longhrear-- Sarah Davis Brumfield and Jesse Brumfield-- shortly after they had removed from Rockingham Co. Va to Fairfield Co. Ohio. Also Sarah Davis Brumfield's Church Letter.*

Shannandoah Co. August the 18th 1822.

* See back p. 2.

Dear Children:

We take this opportunity to write you a few lines to let you know that we are all reasonable well at this time thanks be to God - except the three least of the children have hooping cough. Hopeing these may meet with you both in good health. We received yours of the 16th of June which gave us much satisfaction kxxhxxx to hear that you got to your journeys end safe and that you like the country well.

Dear Children I have to inform you that after you was gone for some time I felt myself at a great loss being separated from you, perhaps never to meet again till Gabriel's trump shall sound.

(2) Cont.
Dear Children should it be the case my prayer to God is that you with me may strive for the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus, giving all dilligence to make our calling and election sure that if we should meet no more in this world we may meet on the banks of eternal deliverance where parting will be no more. Dear Children remember me in your prayers to God. My heart feels grieved while these lines when written to think of being separated at such a distance. Do not neglect writing to me immediately upon receipt of this and let me know how you are. I haveno more at present and still remain your affectionate parents until death.

Henry and Mary Longhrear.

(The following is a note added by Peter Boyer, apparently a fellow church member at Strausburg Va.)

Dear Brother and Sister in Christ Jesus. I do hereby inform you that myself and family are all reasonable well, thanks to God for his goodness, hopeing these may find you both in good health enjoying the pleasant smiles of a loving Savior. That little fuss that was in agitation when you left has subsided and no more heard of since Having nothing of importance to write at present and still remaining your affectionate brother and friend in Christ Jesus.

Peter Boyer.

N.B. Sally Stover and Catherine wish to be rememberedto you both, also Margaret Smith and Rebecca Weaver wish to be remembered to you.

(Note: - Peter Boyer probably acted as an amanuensus to Mary Longhrear in the writing of this letter)

3. Mr Jesse Brumfield
Kingston, Ross Co O.

Dear Brother: I have to inform you that Brother David is no more. He Died on Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. He had been ailing for a some time and had Road to Gillmore's with sister Mary the fore part of last week - got home on last Wednesday Eavening at a late hour very unwell- and was very violently taken with the Cramp Chollick which Baffeled all the doctors could doe-- We followed his remains to the Grave onXXXXX Monday. My family are all well and I believe all the friends are the same. Yours respectfully,

W(illiam)T.(allman) Brumfield.

Lancaster (O.) Nov. 8-1832.

(4). To Mr William Brumfield
Lancaster, Fairfield Co. Ohio.

Winchester Id.
~~Feb~~ 2nd 1839
Jan 31-

Dear Brother -X I take this opportunity to write to let you know that we received the hundred dollars that you sent us a few days before we received your letter- we paid uncle Thomas fifty six dollars and still are in debt to uncle Thomas about fifty six dollars- yet you stated in your letter that Mr Gray expected to collect the other money of parker in March- we stand in need of the money- we are thankful unto you and father for the trouble you had in getting the hundred dollars out for us and will be thankful unto you if you will attend to getting the other money on as soon as you can-- the principle that is behind yet is sixty one dollars and seventy five cents as near as I can recollect.

(go to p.3)

(4) Cont.

The hundred dollars was on interest fourteen years the first of last April and the other note thirteen years interest the first of last April. I dont feel willing to let Gray have more of the interest for collecting than Father promised him, which I understood Father he promised Gray half ofthe interest due at the time Gray received the notes for collecting and all of the interest that was to come- you had better ask Father about it for fear I might have understood him wrong- I got a little mill to going a few days ago but the water is froze up so it cant do any good till there comes a thaw- I got out of the mans debt and got him into my debt seventy five dollars and eighty seven cents but the man is not able to pay me now and I amafraid he will not be able till he can make it in the Mill- I was at Centervill a few days ago - the Friends was well as common then- Benjamon says he has not heard from Thomas and Samuel since Thomas was in- I and my family are well as common- we send our respects to you all-- nothing more at present but remain your unworthy brother --

Jesse Brumfield.

(5). This is to certify that we cherfuly recommen(d) brother Jesse Bromfield as having a gift to exhortand preach as a licentiate belonging to the Deercreek Christian conference in good standing Done in order and in behalf of the union Christian Conference.

Williamsporte Sept 7th 1831
W.S. Bradford Clk pro tem
Enoch Harvey -pres.

(6).

Wabash - June 25th - 1848

Dear Brother I write you a few lines hopin to find you and all the folks well - Dear Brother I have been unwell since I left home- I wrote to my father five weeks ago and have not got an answer- I want you to write to me as soon as you get this letter- I have been ~~sick~~ sick for five weeks with the fever- During the time I stopt to Mr Benges - When you write to me direct your leter Wabash Wabash Indiana and I shall get it- Dont forget - You will excuse me for not wrighting more.

No more at present, Yours Hiram Brumfield,
from the of Sock'm, where all the pretty girls is.

(7)

Lancaster O. Oct 27-1849

Dear Brother:

I am now prepared to inform you in particulars respecting Father's estate. We are as well as usual. Our ailing daug(hter) is not (as able) to walk at this time as she had been during the summer. My own health is not good. The friends are mostly well except James Hunter's wife . She is in bad health a nd not likely to ever recover it again. We had no collery in Lancaster nor neurer than Columbus. There was many deaths inthat place.

In your last letter you wished to know whether I received your letter informing us of the death of your son(John). For an excuse of not answering you I must say that I have become to negligent in writing to my friends. Not through disrespect at all. I must plead my bad health and domestic difficulty.

I will not give give you the particulars of the estate. I had the farm

appraised a few days ago. It was in bad condition - fences and every thing out of order. It was appraised at twenty five dollars and sixty five and two thirds cents - I thought too low. I have anvertice the farm for sale for two or three months and on the twentieth inst. I sold it at thirty dollars per acre. It contained two hundred and thirteen acres eight poles amounting to $ 6391.50. One third in hand and the balance in two equal annual payments, with interest from the day of sale. It is thought by friends and neighbors that it is the best condition that I could make of it. I do not think that the rents for two years would have put it in good repair. The will directs me to put the money on interest until all is collected and then make a divide equal. Mary Parrett receive the interest of her shear and if she should die without issue then her shear will be divided among the balance of the heirs. There is but few debts. I will give you the amount of debts due the estate and notes and accounts against the heirs.

Amount of the sale of the farm ---------- $ 6391-50

Andrew Hunter ---	$860.93	Benjamin Brumfield	$748.62
Jesse Brumfield	1091-82	Samuel Brumfield	796.41
Isaac & Dinah Hedges	125.00	Thos, Hunter	229.09
Mary Parrett	259.12	Thomas Brumfield	436.12
W.T. Brumfield	974.64	John & Nancy Gilmore	170.87
	$2751.51		$2381.11

	5132.62
Sum of notes due the estate	552.12
Of these notes there is doubtful -- $ 130.00	
Inventory of personal property ----------	182.77
Whole Amount ------	12265.51

Withour some rents to collect yet. This statement will show you very nearly the summation of the estate you will receive. --- that some of the heirs have had very little as yet and from this statement you can find what each may expect.
Write me soon ----------

Yours respectfully,
W(illiam)F(allman) Brumfield

Oct 8(9) 18-
N.B. I said nothing about step mother*. The will provides that three hundred dollars be put to interest for her use during her life, and at her death to be equally divided among the heirs. The will provides that the estate shall be put to interest as fast as collected ---- when all is collected. WFB

* Step mother was Jane (Mrs Cleary) m. ? after 1816

(8)

Krikersville O.
Nov. 26 - 1849

Mr Strauder Brumfield
Dear Sir and Cousin:- I received a letter from you a short time since for which I am very thankful. Although I have not had the pleasure to see you since we were children together. Yet I am always glad to hear from my friends. And more especially from those connected by ties of consanguinity. Moreover anything coming from the far west has a kind of charm for me, for I naturally have a kind of presentiment in favor of the west, expecting someday to be a citizen of that fertile country. I must say in regard to the baby business of which you speak, that you certainly have the advantage of me. And for that I am certainly thankful to the good being. I xxxxxxx thank you for your kind wishes in regard to my hapiness and having two boys etc. but the latter I most sincerely hope may never come to pass; for all but the children with me.

The Friends are all well here I beléeve and in Comfortable Circumstances. My Brother George I am happy to inform you, has taken to himself the better half again, without the aid of your County lasses; but I have no doubt that he is thankful for your kind offer.

Grandfather's farm is sold at thirty dollars per acre; the price set upon it; payable in installments.

I have nothing to write of importance I believe at present ; so I shall soon close.

I would be glad to see you all, either at your home or here. Write me soon and let me know all about the affairs of old Thomas *Brumfield's estate- whether it is settled up or not and how itis likely to come out etc.

Nothing more at present but remain yours Truly,

B.(rumfield) Gilmore

* Thomas Brumfield was brother to David Brumfield (Grandfather above) and lived Centerville Ind.

(9) Ottowa(Ill) July 7-1850

Dear Father: I have got safe to Ottowa on the 2 of this month, and I came in the Vermillion at first and staid there a week, at Uncle Samuel's for I saw so many pretty girls I couldnt get away. I like the country very well, but the county is filled with carpenters, and no chance for loafers. I do not know how long I shall stay here but I want you to write to me as soon as you can . I would like very much to hear from home, and all the folks there. the folks are well here and doing well, George Brumfield has gone to California, he has been gone a year ago last April. Sarah Brumfield is married last spring and Maragret Ann Brumfield has been married near two years. George Gilmore went to Galena, he took his trunk along and forgot to take my hat out of it, his sister is there with him. he wrote to me to come out there for I can get plenty of carpenter work,but I do not know whether I shall go or not, until I hear from you. The Minosoto country is not such a ~~xxxx~~ great country as ~~xxxxxxxx~~ you think for. some of the folks give it a bad name. There was one man started from the Vermillion and came back again. Uncle Benjamin Talks of moving to Texas this fall. He would like to to have you go with him. Sarah(Anderson) and her husband are going to move south this fall to one of the southern states. Maria Brumfield is well, ~~she is~~, she is living in town,she has not lived at home for two years. I should like for you to sell that land for me. I can get prarie land at the Vermillion for a dollar and a quarter an acre. Folks can make much more on a rented farm than they can on their own. I have nothing more to write at present.

Hiram Brumfield

(10) Ottowa, Aug. 18th- 1850.

Dear Brother Strother: I received your letter on the 11th. I am not very well at present and have not been for a day or two. Uncle's folks are all well. You wanted to know how the crops were here. The corn crops are good and the wheat crops are tolerable good. Wheat is worth from 63 to 70 cts a bushel. I went out on the Vermillion 2 weeks ago to take a pleasure ride and broke down twenty miles from no place. They are all well there. I was at a ball Friday night , and when I was coming home from the ball I ran against a fence and have not got over it yet. You was saying that the girls all wanted to seeme. I would like to see Randolph once more and all the folks in it. I am going to

take a wild goose chase about the 1st of October to see if I can find any better place than this. I have not made over five dollars since I have been here, and I cannot see but half of it now. I want to find someplace where money is plentier. I likeb the praire land better than the timbered land, and the folks here would sooner live on the prairie land, and you could not get timber land for less than five dollars an acre. I have got a place 20 miles from Ottowa 160 acres, 50 broke and fenced and a house on it. but I did not like the place for it had the milk sick on it - I could take a claim there if I could content my self long enough to cultivate it. - it is between Uncle Samuel's and mud creek. I should like to know how that triel went of Mr Hoppers and Mr Neils. I should like to know how Mr Mully Gr (?) hotel lady gets along together. tell George Rinere to come out here- he can make money faster here than there. I should like to know who waits on them girls on the hill there. I should like to be waiting on them very well. I want you to write right away before I go away. I guess you have time to write to me. I went to see a girl here- I could have runc a noose in a grape vine and snared her eyes- but the called her pop eyed Susan- that is the time I run against the fence when I come home. She has to shut her eyes to get her breath. I have nothing more at present.

Hiram Brumfield.

(11) February 29th 1852 -- Fountain County, Ind.

Dear Nephew: I embrace the present opertunity to inform you that we are all well at present hopeing these few lines may ma finde you all enjoying the same blessing. We received a leter from you dated Jan. 31st 1852. You spoke of riteing two letters to me previous to the one you last rote me-them leters I never got, neither have I ever heard that your brother John was dead untill receiving your last letter. I see from your letter that your brother Hiram is working at Williamsporte that is about twenty miles from here- I frequently go to markett at Attica two miles from where he lives- I would be very glad to see Hiram and if I had known that he was so near Attica I think I should have went and seen him the last time I was in Atica. Concerning aunt* Betsy fravert - she lives in laport County Indiana and we direct letters for her to laport town - We have not heard from her for some years and we have neglected riteing to her. We have not heard from your uncle John grear since last June. I have rote him twice since then but I Have got no answer yet-we sometimes fear that something has happened him- his oldest boy oliver lives with us yet and John used frequently Come see us. and often rite and now he has quit both and for what cause we cant Tell-- now concerning my own circumstances - I am some in debt but I have enough coming to me to pay all but about fifty dollars-- my health as good as common except the Rheumatism in my left hip and leg with which I am considerably ~~affected~~ afflicted so I can only sit a few minutes at a time to rite-- we have a daughter born 11th of October last- we call her name Amanda- you spoke of coming out this way - we would be very glad to see you come- I think some of seling my farm- I ask a thousand dollars for it and it is cheap at the price - this is a flourishing County And I have no doubt that you would like it if you com here- we have plank roads now which is a great benefit to this part of the country- we can haul double the amount of produce at a load that we used to haul. Wheat is 50cts per bushal corn 20 cts- pork

* I cannot identify Betsy Fravert. (Ross)

brought $3.75 and $4.00 per hundred. I shal now close my letter please to answer this letter soon as convenient . Let your father and mother read this, to whom, with the rest of inquiring friends we send our best respects, and no more but we remain yours affectionatedy.

*George Fisher and Elizabeth Fisher to Strother Brumfield and wife.

N.B. Direct to Elizabeth Fravert, La Porte Post Office, LaporteC Co., Ind.

* Geo Fisher m a half sister to Sarah David, Strother B's mother.

12. Williamsport, May 3rd - 1852.

Dear Brother: I received yours on the 18th of April and was glad to hear of your good health. I am well at present and have hired out to work for Harvey Lincoln for 14 per month. You wanted me to come and work for you. I was sorry I could not come. Yours until death . ---------- Hiram Brumfield,

13. (This is Jesse Brumfield, Sr.)

Dear Brother: I take my pen inhand to inform you you that we are all in common health at present with the exception of rebecka is some afflicted with rumities and Lizy is subject to the head ache.

There is about six families of us that wos afflicted this last winter with small pox which was the cause of three death we lost arther by the dezease he died on the first of March aged twelve years, one month and nine days Joseph lost the site of his right I there was a pock mark came near the site and couse (cause) his I to bust and it run some but has held sum but the scar of the pock is over the site of the I that prevents him from seeing out of that I-- time are dul here-- we still have a very wet spring-- brother William has Drown(?) of the charges that was against me on fathers book and I find there was a property charge of fifty two dollars and 29 cents when I should have live with you on rush crick-- if I remember right father told me he had helpt me to $ 200.00 when I live with you--- I will stat down as I see it in the with dat in will and letter--

		$	C
1828	to pair oxons ---	35	00
	to one ax	1	00
	to 15 light sash- 9 pains glas	1.	79
May	to one cow and calf	9	50
1829	to 8 pounds wool	2.ØØ	00
1830	to one hog	3	00
	hole amount	52	29

I want you to rite whether father did give you anney cash or not on my account-- if he state the mount with date as near as you can and the grai steer that we had worken of father's whether it was broke to work for father or to be charge-- if charge hoo to--

my reasins for wishing you to rite to me on this subjec it father told me that he helpt me to $200.00 when I live with him here on the place and if I am not mistaken it was while I was with you on rush crick and that he loud to go against my work Idun for him over 21--- but William says he sees no credit given for work and sais his layier tells him that there is no other chance to favor me than for me to lay in my claim for wages when step mothers Dower will be ready to divide and get the airs to concent to my claim --now if father has let you have an cash on my account that is not charge against me I want to have the amount of it and present it with my claim-- rite to me as soon as you can.

Samuel Brumfield

Direct your letter to Mishagan Post Office, Levingston County, Stat of Illanois.

I want your concent to my claim of two hundred dollars on Fathers estate for labor I dun for Father over 21 rite it in your letter and rite to brother William your consent to my claim for wages and state in your letter to william the amount of all the cash and property that you are serten that Father helpt me to while I live with you on rush crick and that I will settle up tp

Mr Jesse Brumfield
Winchester Post Office
Randolph County
Stat of Indiana.

New Michigan Pfs June 13 5.

14. Septm 11 1852.

Dear Brother I take my pen in hand to inform you that we are in comin health at present hopeing that these lines find you all well there is sum chill and fever in our naborhood I wrote to you sum time ago and got no answer I want you to rite me answer as soon as you can and state how much you can remember of Fathers helping me to while I live on Rush Crek It run in my mind that you told me that Father gave you sum money for me when I live with you on rush Crek and when I move back to Fathers he told me that he had given me two hundred dollars If my memory serve me rite while I live with you on rush crek and that he said was to stand against the work I don for him over twenty one but I cant make out but about fifty dollars and twenty nine cents I receive in property while I live with you and brother william state in his letter ~~letter~~ to me that he found no credit in Fathers Books given me for labor so here is two hundred dollars I am out of pocket William sais his lawyer tell him that he dos not se anny other chanc to favor me than for me to Lay in my charge and get the airs to consent to it against step mothers dower shall be ready to divide unto the airs but this would seam rather unjust an unreasanble thing that I should wait not knowing how long when through misfortune sum way or other there was no credit given me but will remark that we all more or less govern by two spirits as we yeald to there influence and as I have laboured in great deal of flicton sence I first com to state of illanois and have been driven by cramping dets to over doo my bodly strength to the injury of myself I will insist from the force of reason that the airs should pay back there partioned part to the exerters of Father (e)state that I might get what is due me So I wish you as one to pay back to William your part for I want to pay of(f) his note and send me a letter as soon as you can.

Samuel Brumfield

brother Benjamin also by by given (?) in a ronged form has caused the airs to receive more than was justly coming to them which all the airs should pay back there part to (?) as I calcalatle to do it. I want you to send a letter to William requesting him to make out your part after all the mestakes made are rectifide Benjamin also requests the airs to pay back there part to make up his monney I spect to see Benjamin in a fue days and him and me will send a letter to the rest of the airs to rit to william to make out there part that it will take to make up our monney and then as soon as William shall make up there part after all mastake are reetified send the amounts to them then for them to pay back to William as soon as they can I intend to write to William on this subject an give him an order to take my part as fast as the airs pay in and give me credit on his Note.

(14) Cont.

Let me no whtther there is anny thin more don with Uncle estate(this would be Thomas Brumfield of Centerville Ind.)

A 5 1/6

New Michigan Ill, Sept 21-5.
Mr Jesse Brumfield , Winchester, Randolph Co., Ind.

15. Warren Co Ind., Oct 20th 1852.

~~(Brother Jesse)~~

Dear Brother/I improve the present opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you now how I am getting along I am well at this time but I have had one spell of the fever and ague about two months but am now tolerable well and ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ hope these few lines may find you in good health Health is generally good in this county Crops of corn is light Wheat was good price of pork was $5.50 Pork buyers is offering to engage at that, Corn is worth 40¢ wheat is 62½ I was at lafayet last week and found willits all well but William and he was gone to Cincinnatia to see some of his connection/and it is not likely that he will be in there soon - I have not been down to see Uncle George yet and I dont know that I shall go soon I am busy at work I expect to come in there this winter if nothing prevents me and I would like to see you all very well at this time but circumstances will not admit of it at present but if we never meat each other again on earth may we all be so happy as to meet in heaven where parting will be no more forever. I was very much surprised to hear of Mr Jesse Brumfield Weden and I should love to know how he is getting along but nevertheless I wish him all the joy immaginable thumping luck and big children so my paper is short But I am yours with respect. H.(Iram) Brumfield.

(On back of 15)
Mr Strother Brumfield and wife I am well at this time and hope you and family enjoy the same blessing My wife departed this life Aug. the 29th 1852 I would love to se all my old acquaintances in that County again but it appears that I cant enjoy that privealige. nowTell my friends that I respect them all yet so no more at present but remain yours truly,
Curtiz J. Beals.

Hiram Brumfield ---- Strother Brumfield, S.L. S Brumfield.

(Appended below) George Fisher , Hill (?) ,Fountain Co Ia.

16. Eaton, March 11 1853.

Mr S. Brumfield Please collect the amount of Isaiah Rogers note and pay Stacy Rainer two dollars and oblige(he will give you the note.) Joseph B. Mills.
And pay for my lot also and take up my note of Mr Holister/and the remainder send to meSo soon as you collect it/and as soon as I write to you about it Pay him(I. Rogers) for helping me to the burg.
J.B. Mills.

17.

Dallass County, Adell Iowa May 27 1853.

Dear son we arrived this day in Adell after a very fatiguing journey. We are all well at present hopeing that you are all enjoying the same blessing we found very bad roads through the elinoise we crossed the wabash on the second day of may and it began to rain that day and rained on us ten days and knights nand running the water was all high so that we had to ferry all the rivers where there was no bridges and our horses and Joseph Slaughters mired down so that we had to double teems once apiece We have unloaded both wagons in adell in a little cabin and expect to start mondy morning with one enpty wagon to look for land to enter but do not know but what we shall have to go forty of fifty miles before we can suit ourselves We leave the fameleys and the other wagon and 2 horses til we return we are all well pleased with most of the country in iowa that we have saw I had to buy another horse on the Sangamoine river in elinoise for the roads was so bad that we could not get along with 2 horses without killing them we turned our course and went through indiannopelas and Crawfordsville on account of the rain that fell when we startdd we stayed with george fisher satterday knight after we left home Fishers buried one of their children some months ago the rest of the family is well fisher says if you come thare next fall he will try to come with you to iowa to look at the country I want you to write to us as soon as you get this letter direct your letter to Adel post office Dallass County Iowa. my horse feed cost $16-22 prpvisions $13-31 toles $4.32 we get corn here at 25 c pr bushel by going ;2 or 15 miles and halling it our selves we got corn on the road from 25 c to 50 c per busnel let me know whether you have found the old pide cow or not and if you have sold the little wagon or not we crossed the missippi on monday the 16th at burlington and stayed in the edge of burlington that knight and bought a cat fish for 35 cents that weighed 30 pounds which made a little over three meals for all of us and for Joseph Slaughters family also I finsih this letter on the 29th and state that we have a very rainy day but that not much rain since we got in iowa till now the people tell us that this is a very backward spring here it has bin very wet in April and fore part of may here the people tell us the corn is not near all planted here yet we want to try to get in some corn if we can find land to suit us in a few days the people tell us if we can get corn in the last of june it will do well nothing more at presnnt

Jesse Brumfield
To Strother Brumfield

18.

July the 9th - 1853.

Mr Strother Brumfield:

I am gratified to fancy the opportunity allowed at present of writing to my friends and relatives as you may apprehend.

my health is reasonably good at present with the exception of which arises I suppose from a working of the optic nerve prarie countrys is hard on the eyes of them that are not accustomed to them especally if they are naturally weak. The rest are well in body but not altogether in mind for dissatisfaction prevails among us and our neighbors.

I read the letter that you wrote to father this evening and was much gratified so to do the answer that you require of father I will endeavor to fulfill as I have (?) to the office previous to his . Father will write also and when you receive both letters

(18) cont.
preuse them and see how they compare with each other. We have six acres of corn knee high pretty hard to beat for its age and chance Eleven acres of sod corn but the prospect appears dull probably it will do pretty well yet. We have beautiful garde n coming on- radishes large enough to eat-- some have beans and peas and potatoes in abundance to eat-- cabbage as large as my hand Land is good and fertile here timber is not so good as I would like but that is altogether owing to the fancy of Different persons some will be well pleased where others are not. With respect to your request relating to the selling of the waggon and horses I can hardly decide that is as I view it but my council is for you to come prepared to do either way you choose that is if you intend to buy you could and if not no harm Done
Fathers Mill seat is not as good as was supposed it was There is plenty of skinners to be found here Mr moore the man we bought our claim of has a very corrupt (eloreter ?) We relied too much on his ~~on his~~ word not yet knowing him and somewhat green ourselves he swindled Father out of considerable money times are hard here as is the case in all new countries A man has no business here without money clothing is high and what little a man raises he has to sell low that is our reaction so you may judge for yourself do not sell out until you come and see for yourself then if you sell and get dissatisfied you could blame no one but yourself concerning the buying of claims and the conveniences of situations you will learn all these soon enough after you get out.
My land does not suit me not knowing where the lines were and and relying on the word of strangers I made a night entry and now I find myself with plenty of prarie and no timber worth trying to improve with We have a lonesome situation Sarah is no better satisfied than she was I have finally concluded that it is wrong to compel her to stay here and the land not suiting me either she will probably go back with you if such be the case I want to go by Joseph millers and cooper some(re?) before I go on out if wages is good there I fear Father will chance hard times here for you know he is not able to work much and Stanton is not large enough to do much yet and hands is scarce and when he gets one it will take the dimes pretty fast to pay him.
I lost forty or fifty dollars somewhere on the road.

(I done this writing at Mr Slaughters)
I apprehen(g) Mother brumfield will be dissatisfied if Sarah goes back with you for she would find it load enough if the children were all here together Joseph Slaughter is well pleased with his situation he talks of working in the fort this winter at his trade there is a good site of suppose there for him .
As I am not very well posted (?) for writing I will bring my letter to a close
In respect to the price of produce in case of being on the public road is generally good but as it happened we got a distant situation and I fear it will remain so for a considerable time Mr slaughter (?) is better than he was but no hopes of regaining his eyesight
Give my respects to hiram and all the rest of the folks around and about the surrounding neighborhood friends as well as neighbors

James H. Holcroft

Strother Brumfield.

19. Copy of letter dated 1853-7-11 from Jesse Brumfield in Iowa to his son Strbther in Randolph Co Ind.

July 11th - 1853-- Dallis Co Iowa

Dear Son:

We received your letter on the ninth of this month and are glad to hear that you are all well. We are all well hopeing that these few lines may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have bought a claim on Beaver Creek one half mile from the north line of Dalliss Co. I gave one hundred and fifteen or sixteen dollars. They called the claim a half section but I only entered three eighties of it and entered one forty of prairie adjoining it. I have eighty or ninety acres of timber. The timber is not as good as I would like to have but the land I am well pleased with. I expect I can have a reasonable good mill site on Beaver on my land.

James(Holcroft) entered three forties. His timber is poor but if there was a saw mill handy he could make out with his timber. My money is nearly gone. Tell mother to save all the money she can and bring it along, and I want to collect all the money that is due me there and bring it along . Tell Jarret, Sater, Michaels and Edwards that I need money very bad and that it would be a very great accomodation to me if they would pay it. If Jesse can get the wheat threshed in time I want you to sell my share if you can and bring the money along with you. Flour is three and four dollars a hundred here.

My claim has about 17 of 18 acres under fence and there is a cabben on it. Six acres was broke once and part of it had been tended. We got six acres of corn and ten acres of sod broke. The sod corn looks poor but the other looks well for the time it was planted. We landed on our place on the second day of June and commenced planting corn on the fourth. and finishes on the 29th of June. I got four acres of sod broke for wheat if I can get the seed. The time to soe wheat here is about the middle of August. My sod breaking cost thirty dollars besides the boarding. I bought a cow and calf and paid twenty dollars for them. She has spilte tits or I would have paid 25 dollars for them. Cattle is very high here and scarce.

James(Holcroft) and Sarah got home today from Joseph Slaughters. They are all well. Jospeh Slaughter bought forty acres of timber for 250 dollars. ---- He is three or four miles up coon river from Adel. We have 20 miles to Adel and about twenty eight miles to Fort Des Moines. The money that you and Mother can fetch for me, get in State Bank of Ohio and State Bank of Indiana and get it tryed by the tester, and your own paper money get it in them banks.

I will now describe this country as near as I can and the chances of getting land -- timber is so scarce that it is hard to find good timber and good land together, that is to enter without buying claims. The people claims up all the best land and timber before the land comes into marcet(Market) which makes it hard to get a good choice without buying claims, or taking a claim and settle on it after the rest does and then be sure to be ready at the day of the land sails to enter your claim . Them that comes here with plenty of money can do well. There is a good many people here wants to sell and go to Texas and Oregon. Our nearest mill is 18 miles at the rapids of the Desmoines River in Coon Co. There dam has been broke several months so they could not grind many.

but they want to mend thare dam as soon as the water goes down.

James(Holcroft) lost his pocket book or it was stole. He says there was forty or fifty dollars in it and fifty or sixty dollars in notes. He had his pocket book in his fine coat pocket and had his coat in the saddle bags. He took his coat out at George Fishers and does not recollect of seeing it since. He thinks he might of had his pocket book out at Fishers and laid it down and forgot it If you coem by Fishers ask them if they found the pocket book and if they found it bring it along with you. You wanted to know whether you could trade your horses and my waggon for land or not. I do not think that you could very well and if you could it would not be the best for if you could it would cost you too much to go home by water. If you think the little wagon will stand it to come out in you can have it to go home in again. If you like the country and what to move out soon you may have the wagon that that I moved out in and I will keep the little wagon here.

If you count on coming by George Fishers and Jospeh Mills you ought to start the first of August or the middle of August at the farthest for it will take you some time to look for land and the weather will be cold and disagreabel before you could get home again, if you are too late in starting. If you come through Fort Des Moines then inquire for Snotgrasses mill which is six miles northof the Fort on Beaver Creek. Then inquire for Heriesses Grove on Beaver at Moores settlement. If you hit the right road after you leave Heriesses Grove you will not come to any place for fifteen miles and that will be my nearest neighbor close by the south end of my land. Inquire of him to my house. If you can get a good plain gun that will run about 75 to a 100 bullets to the pound get it and bring it along if you can. Deer and Elk is plenty here. Write us if you can and let us know how soon you can start. Our love to you all.

Direct your letters to Adel, Dallas County Iowa.

Nothing more at present.

July 11 the 1853 Jesse Brumfield.

20. Ottowa(Ill) October 1st 1853.

Dear Uncle Jesse.

I take up my pen to write you sorrowful news, the death of my father and mother. They moved to the State of Texas on April last & were sick from the time they started until this time. My dear Father died on the 19th of June & my Mother on the 28th of July. It is very hard to realize that my dear parents are Buried in a strange land, that I shall never see them again; and that my poor little brothers and sisters have been knocked about at the mercy of strangers for nearly six monthes, for my lamented parents were totally helpless when they were with them. My husband would have gone before now and brought the children home but no one dares travel down the river on account of the yellow fever in New Orleans, until cold weather. I am anxious to get the children home, as they fare very bad there, and also from another reason , which is that the lawers are wasting what little money they have, which the children are too young to know how to take care of. They will not have enough to bring them back I am afraid. I just got a letter from them yesterday in which they stated they had only forty dollars left from the lawyers hands , they also inform me that they had received a letter from Indiana, which was sent on from here & that some person, but I could notmake out who had a sum of money from Grandfather's (David Brumfield) estate, belonging to Father.

I think you are the person which they meant. If you are not the one that holds the money, I beg of you as a great favor to find out as soon as you receive this , who does hold it& also to get it changed into good passable bills and send to Ottowa to Andrew Anderson,which is my husbands name. I must again beg of you to do this amediately as it will be late in the fall before we get it. & I scarcely need to tell you that the money is all Andrew will have to bring the children home with. Father took $ 800.00 dollars in gold with him to Texas & now there is not any left to bring the poor orphans back home again . Write also if that sum of money which Father brought from Ohio last spring, for his uncle & which the heirs by mistake set down to his account, is to be sent & also if there will be any more coming to the children from Grandfather Brumfields estate. I would not ask these questions now but it is necessary to know right away; otherwise I am afraid the Children will not get home this fall. Andrew is gone to Chicago & I thought when I received the Childrens letter , that it was best to write right away, as I dont expect him home for two weeks . Write soon as you get this and let me know if you are all well, and also if Hiram is married yet or not. Write also if you please how cousin Elizabeth does, & likewise the rest of the family. Give my best love to them all & tell them that we, Andrew, my self and our little girl are well.

I have nothing more to write except to beg of you to write us. A letter from you now and then would be very welcome to us. I do not know whether you live near Centerville yet or not, but I will direct this to Thomas G. Noble who I remember lived in Centerville to be sent to you. I hope you receive and answer shortly. & do your best if you please to do us such a favor,to have the money sent on as soon as possible. & now I must bring my tedious letter to a close by bidding you farewell.

Yours Affectionately,
Sarah Jane Anderson.

"Father" referred to in the above letter is Benjamin Brumfield, brother to Jesse Brumfield.

21. Janurary the 21st 1854.
Saturday evning, Vary cold.

(Your letter came from Fort Des Moi ns in 13 days to Bloomingsport)

Dear Father and Mother:

We received your letter day before yesterday, the 19th, and was very glad to hear from you all we had been watching the post office for some weeks past and on the 17th inst Harriett received a letter from Sarah P and also one for Hiram from stanton on the 19th. We are sory to hear of Sarah and James bad luck We are all well at present and hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same. one of Gods blessings The neighbors are generally well at present Louisa never got shet of the ague till the first of this month Sharlott Smith is better. Enoon Wright is dead Morris Wiggs is dead Starebuck, the man that lived about where Watson Slaughter did live is dead he died down at Eaton Ohio and they hauled him home and buried him at Winchester I made the coffin day before yesterday for Erwin Baldwins child about five months old - it died with fits. I have paid up all your debts here. Cottom. Willis Baily and your taxes two. your taxes was $12.98

Sunday morning the 22nd. Anthony Way could not pay me for you at Christmas and Nate Branson got vary impatient and lib came up after the money and said they must have for Stuart Cox was in and wanted his money. I told lib that Anthony Way would pay it as soon as he sold his hogs and further I told her I would bring the money down as soon as Anthony Way paid it to me she said the old woman Branson told her that I never would pay the money, that you had not done right with lib etc and found of (?) you that you showed partiality and helped the rest of us more than her lib wanted me to borrow the money for she dreaded to go home without it and I told her I could not do that Nate was to sulky to ask a word about it. I will now state that I went to Anthony Way on the 9th day of January 1854(and said he you are just in time the bank is open he said he sold his hogs at Richmond and got home on Friday evening dark the 6th inst.) He paid me the two hundred dollars that was due. on the 25th of Dec. 1853 I went right from Anthony Ways to Nathan Bransons and he was not at home so I waited for him till nearly knight and I did not get to see him at all that day and Mark Nichols came in. lib said I might as well pay her the money and I told her no I must have a receipt from Nate and told them I had the money ready and did not want to come down again and lib said she could sign the receipt and they all said that Nate would sign it to. and finally I give Elizabeth the money $100.00 and she sign her name to the receipt of $100.00. Mark Nichols helped me to count the money over for them. I told Mark Nichols how it was that I was to pay or give Nathan Branson $100.00 for you I thought there would be no difficulty about the matter and Mark Nichols allowed it would be alright so the old woman said if Nate would not sign the receipt I should have the money back again and on them conditions I let them. have the money on the 9th day of January 1854 and I went down to Nates on the 17th to get him to sign the rect. I thought i had let the time slip long enough and Nathan Branson said he would not sign the rect. and he did not sign it at all he acted the rascal vary much he then wrote a receipt of his own make handed it to me and gathered the receipt up that i had got from lib and throwed it in the fire right before my eyes(Hiram was along and seen it all) I snatched it outof the fire before it got burned I told him that kind of work would not do me at all he said you told him you would give lib $100.00 at Christmas but you never promised him one cent. he wrote his receipt in this way received of Jesse Brumfield Sen. by the hand of Strother Brumfield one hundred dollars in full of all demands January 17th 1854

N. Branson

This is his form. The one I have from Elizabeth Branson reads thus
Received from Jesse Brumfield Sen. by the hand of Strother Brumfield one hundred dollars this 9th day of January 1854.
Then her name to it.

I want you to charge this one hundred dollars to Nathan Branson so as to make it safe he is a grand rascal then send me word back that you have charged it and what you think about the matter etc. lib says you promised her $60.00 next Christmas and if you have any more money to give lib you had better keep it out of Bransons hands.

Strother Brumfield.

i did not take his receipt at all
(Back page,same letter)
this is the coldest weather we have had.

I want you Jesse Brumfield to take charge of my land in Dallas County Iowa and see that the timber is not destroyed.
this 23rd of January 1854. Strother Brumfield.

21. Cont(3rd p)
You can prosecute Mores for making their threats and bind them over to keep the peace. Strother Brumfield

What is James(Holcraft) at work at in the fort tell him i want him to write to me and the rest of us I will try to sell that cow and calf as soon as i can write as soon as you get (this)

(I will send you twenty seven dollars in the next letter next rail
my respects to you all
remain your affectionate son
Strother Brumfield.

22. January 29th 1854
Sunday evening

Dear Father and Mother:
I take this opportunity to inform you that we are all well at present and hoping these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing. when you get this letter give me cr on the receipts for the money that I have collected for you give me cr on Isaiah Ellis's receipt in full that was due last Christmas he paid his note off there was 12¢ interest off for the $587 that I brought out to youwhich left $26.36 Anthony Way has paid his note off that was due last Christmas which was $ 200.00. John R Kirkling has paid one of the sail notes off which was 3.60
I paid all your debts here that I know of

Elizabet ----------		100.00
The Cottom note		50.00
The Willis note		25.00
The Baily note		15.00
and your taxes		12.98
	$229.96	202.98
	202.98	
	$ 26.98	

and now you will find inclosed in this letter twenty seven dollars
Strother Brumfield to
Jease Brumfield.

(Back of the same letter)
I cant sell that cow till she has a calf that will be the last of april without a rare chance.

Our county house has burned to ashes it burnt down last wednesday the 25th between 11 and 1 oclock in the day it caught by the stove flew is there good tillable(or good timber what kind of timber) land on the eighty acres that you bought that has the mill site on what was your idea in buying owins out have you mcuh prospect of selling where you now live. i dont think i can let you have any money I had to let Hiram have all the money that i have to spare and more for i have let my own (d)ribs of debts go so as to let xxxx him have the money to pay on the place he bought of Zimmer I think i told you in my first letter that he had bought Zimmer out for $900.00Harper got him onto it with the promise of helping him some towards paying for it but the dog is dead now his chicken scrape has come back on him and now I have had to lend Hiram money and go without myself i have let him have $ 245.00 Stephen Pallard has paid his payment all to $35.00 what would my land ~~bin~~ bring in Iowa Old Mr Abshire says he will be out to see you in Iowa the fore part of next summer if nothing happens him he sends his respects to you all he has the Iowa fever vary much write soon as you get this letter nothing more at present but remain
Yours Strother Brumfield.

See Also p.16a

No 23 a.

April 30th 1854
Dallas County Iowa.

Dear Son we received your letter on the 20th inst Dated march 27th 1854. we are glad to hear fromyou all but sorrow to hear that Lusia is sick again I wrote you a letter on the 12th of March stateing to you that we received your letter thathad the 27 dollars in it and that we got the 27 dollars I also stated that if you had any money in for me to keep it till the sail notes was due and then collect the sail money as fast as you can when you get eighty or a hundred dollars of my money collected take the money and go to richmond bank and get a check on some bank in the City of new york and send the check to me in a letter when you get eighty dollars if you cannot get any more soon take take the eighty dollars and get a check and send it to me I want to pay off my land warrant that I got to save forty acres of owens Claim by paying it before it is due I get ten pcc reducted of(f) until it is Due we are only in moderate health hoping you are all in good health there is a good eal of sickness in the fort and was all winter and a great many deaths moore buryed ~~xxx~~ one of his sons 2 weeks ago yesterday produce is about the same here it was last fall I traded my gun for a one horse wagon and I gave two dollars and 25 cants to boot James and Sarah was well last friday morning and are doing well .
Direct your letters to the fort nothing more at present
Jesse Brumfield.

23.

April 9th - 1854

My Dear Cosine

Ill take my pen (in) hand to inform you that I am well at presant hoping these few lines find you all injoying the same I am twenty two miles from home I am doing hause work (foR) Mrs West Mr West keeps the station hose at toniica on the Illinois Sentral Railroad 12 miles south of pe(O)ria I resive a letter from my brother the third of april tha(t) tere all well he said that he had receive a letter from you that you had got home from iowa and that you were sick all the time that you were goun he said that your house got burnt while you were goun

Cousin anderson went to texas last fall for uncle benjamin children he got home the middle of febuary last and fetch the children with him tha are all well(Sdrath ?) at present

My respecs to you all I wount you to write to me and let me know how you all ar direct to lasal county Illinois point republick

Dinnah Brumfield
liza Brumfield
strather Brumfield

24.

May 9th 1854.

Dear Father i take this present opportunity to inform you that we are not well at this time Louisa has the ague yet off and on has had it all this spring by spells the rest of the folks are generally well. hoping these few lines may (find) you all well Hirams wife has a daughter born the 24th of April and on the 24th of April about 4 oclock in the morning his house caught fire and burned down he lost all his meat lard flour and all his kitchen things stove ec he got his clothing pretty much all out and bedding and cupboard all out he had all the barrels that you left at my house and half a barrel of salt burnt They are at Harpers now Hiram is vary much out of heart . my object in writing this letter is that i have placed in the hands of Thomas Ward Eighty dollars of your money to be delivered to you or James Holcraft in Fort Desmoines Polk Co. Iowa Thomas Ward and Wm Way is going to the Fort will start in a few days he will if nothing happens to him be in Fort Desmoines about the first of June or somewhere about that time i thought it would be better to send the money by him and less expense and cheaper than to go to Richmond and get a check so i had barly $45.00 of the aale mony collected and when i heard he was going to Fort Des Moines i turned out and borrowed $35.00 to make up the $80 i have taken his receipt for the money i offered to pay him for taking the money to you but he would not have any thing when you receive the money from him you give him a receipt this is all that is necessary i believe yet i was almost afraid to send contrary to your orders but i think it will go safe. every thing is high money is somewhat scarce wheat is said to be $1.87 cts per bushel in Winchester corn 30 cts potatoes 75 cts flour $10.00 bbl and land is raising here and has ris vary much since you left Indiana It is now from 15 to 25 and 30 Dollars per acre this is the first i have wrote to you any time about land here i think your land will bring $ 1500.00 in good payments and may be cash down Joseph Willis and Steve Ballard was looking at it the other day and i thought I would write this so you would not be behind the times in setting a price on it if some person els was to was to write to you about it John sylvester asks $1000 for his

place 40 acres it has been vary cold wet backward spring wheat in the ground dont look like it would average five bushels to the acre here

May 16th Monday evening

i have been so busy i could not finish this till now i have been planting my corn today and will finish tomorrow if nothing happens I am not working out any yet Johnathan Hutchens sent me word yesterday that he had a job for me in Williamsburg of five or six hundred dollars but Louisa kept so poorly i dont know whether i cang go or not Holoster was telling me the other day that this same Johnathan Hutchens said he had an account a store bill against you but i dont know how much i want to go down and see some of these days about it but i think there is something wrong about it someway i have about 7½ acres of corn in i have poled in my garden but still i want to go to Iowa have not hard from Joseph for some time Stanton write me a letter and tell us about affairs in Iowa my respects to you all no more at present.

To Jesse Brumfield Strother Brumfield

Father write soon we want to hear how Iowa is coming on

James i would like to hear from you and Sarah some of these times i was by your mothers yesterday they ware all well and the girls in fine spirits is there ary newspaper printed in Fort Des moines if there is and it is worth anythingand if you feel like send me and I will send you the Winchester Dollar Emplem it would suit me to read some about Iowa sometimes write soon it is 10 oclock time for me to go to bed.

Strother Brumfield.

25.

May 26th 1854.

Dear Cousins I take this oppartunity to inform you that I am well at present' hope that these few lins Will find you injoying the xxxxx plasing I was not at home when your letter came I did not see your letter till the (?) of May my Brother received your letter the last of febrary I am very sorrow to hear of your sickness ~~sickness~~ you had while you gan I am at my sister(man?) Mrs Cooper she was taken sick taw weeks ago and sent for me she has got a yang san(young son) the 23 he Weighed 10 pands they have not (named ?) him yet Margaret ann is giting quit smart a gan the rest of the family is all well

Mother and Joseph was over today they was all well I should like to can out and see you this fall cam but as Mother thinks she will gano to Ohio this fall I not kin cam but I am deturman to cam out and see you some time if I live my respect to you all

Diannah Brumfield Strother Brumfield

Louisa Brumfield

pieses of My Dresses.

Hiram I should be pleas to have you and your wife to com out and see us you neigh sta at home be Caus you are a marred man When I get marrad I am com out to see you but I can not tell you how soon that will be

noth mor at present

26. 7-4-1854.

My dear Brother: I improve the present opportunity of writing a few lines. We are all well hoping these few lines may find you enjoying the same blesing. we went to a selabration Saturday last the sons of temperance marched it was at Huntsville we had a good lecture on temperance corn and oats looks well there is not wheat enough for bread it has been injured by the fly and freezes in the spring and now the wevle and rust we will have 25 bushels

William Cook has sold for $20.00 and acre and Elisha Cook has sold for the same wood land is $ 10.00 and acre. improved farm land $ 15.00 to $ 30.00 ----- has sold for $ 25.00 per acre ------- all coming out here this fall Plasant Bals has been trying to sell I expect I expect we will all come out in a year or two I expect to cut wheat tomorrow dock you must send a lots of letters for I would like to hear from you all once a week and that will learn you how to write wheat has been $2.00 a bushel but it is 85 cents now it is 2 Oclock and raining hariot is spinning John is walking around the table he has to hold to it to keep from falling Nathan and Elizabeth was well the last account the rest ofthe folks are well when you write write about all I would like to know how much corn have you in I want you to tell me all about matters and things

We have young potatoes to eat there was two apples on your orchard this year many blossoms Martha Jane you must write me some next time Mother has 40 lbs of wool sold 30 lbs got the rest carded Father I cant get the rest of that money till after harvest I would like to know if I can sow wheat ~~on~~ this fall on this place or not lard is 8 cts per pound butter do cheese do eggs five cents per dozen James Blanket got his leg broke Eli Mc Naab has deceased

No more at present but remain yours trily

Jesse Brumfield to
Stanton J. Brumfield

July the 15th

If Father wants to sell his place I expect there would be a good chance John can walk.

27. Aug. 27 1854

Dear Cousins I take my pen in hand to inform you of our health Mother has been very sick with the bilious fever she is abel to ga about gain I have had the chik(chill) since last Wednesday I am abel to be up every morning till ten oclock the rest ar all well we wear all over to M Cooper too weeks ago except father tha wear all well then and we have not herd from them since cousin Sarah Jane Anderson war out to see us two weeks go from ottawa staid a week witt us she well and all the rest of the children is well George Brumfield died in California with the small pocks las t fall I receive your letter in august our mail had stapat in july th start agin you writ that louisa had a son and Could not find a name for him and want that I should send him one I dant ~~kaw~~ that naw ~~that~~ wher I can send him one to pleas you but I will send ~~him~~ you one call him William forlander I would be glad to cum out an d see you all fall but ~~xxxxxxxx~~ as (lirt ?) is sickly. (lealer ?) nott I am a frad to ga on the cars hiram I want you to kiss the baby for me I should like to see hiram sence he has gat ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ bee father I am bound to cam

27a. Albany Ill March the 4th 1855.

A Dear Cousin
I take this opportunity of answering your letter which I received dated Febuary 2nd and was glad to hear from you We are all well at present and hope these few lines may find you all enjoying the same state of health. it is a vary pleasant day and the snow is going away very fast Rachel I have been six sleighriding this winter and Elizabeth Ann and Ann Eliza to. we went with Hymon Short George Brown and Oliver McMhanand Sarah Whistler and Dianna Goff and Nancy Ellen flack and Elizabeth Ann and ann Eliza and I are going to schoolevery day I expect a visitor today Mary Jane Chacey and we will have high times I tell you Grandfather is a going to come home as soon as the river breaks Tell uncle Strother that he has forgot us Father wrote two letters and has got no answer yet we want to get aletter bad from them. We hoped that when we got your letter that we would hear from all and instead of that we did not hear from none but uncle Strother and grandfather tou asked grandfather wheather he had eat any big fish yet and I can tell you mighty quick about that for he has eat half a dozen of them tell grandmother she is very afraid of falling down and breaking her nose. I read in the pictorial history of the united states. there Was a young man died here last week it was aunt Rachel Mc Mahan son and I was to the funeral. tell grandmother that she had letter prepar for to come out here for Grandfather is coming out there after her to come and he is going to bring her here in the carriage for I am most dead to see her and tell uncle Hyram and Aunt Elizabeth that we will look for them as soon as the river breaks open for mother vants to see that baby the worst kind tell uncle Strother that he need not look for a letter till we get one from them . Clifton has got a little horse on a wagon and he says he is going to give them to sippo(Scipio)when he comes here I would like to see you Rachel and I would like to see little Sippo and little Johney and little Mary Jane tell uncle Jesse Brumfield that we guess he has forgot us or less he would write to us Well aunt Sally and aunt betsy Mother says she is very well satisfied her(e) when we get fixed after a while we will have a neat little place here and a neat little gardento we had our door yard so full of flowers that we could not step any where without stepping on flowers all kinds O I tell you aunt betsy if you seen the town of Albany you could not look at old Socumm agan O'h the steam boats in the summer blowing it would make you sick and ringing their belles Our love to all I remain your affectionate Cousin Sarah J. M(ills) to Rachel J. Ranier

27 Cont.
out and see you all some time before long if I live Noth more at presant Mother sends her respects youall

Diannah Brumfield
hiram Brumfield
Strother Brumfield

this pink is a peece of my dress
this purpel piece is a liza dress
this blue piece is Margaret Ann dress

28. April 10th 1885 Polk Co Iowa- Fort Des Moines

Dear Son I got to the Fort on the 4 of April and found James and his family well I am well myself at present I entered you 120 acres of land the 40 west of James and the South 80 of the Northwest ¼ of section 3 it could not be entered north and south on account of the fractions Could not be devided I thought it was better to take the South 80 than to take the north fractions Sylvesters and Slaughters are well Joseph Slaughters wife has twins they are both boys The people are generally well here I got to Joseph Miillses on Satterday evening after I got home they ware all well except Colds it was very cold weather while I was at Josephs and has been verry cool weather ever s ince Jacob Mills started home on wensday after I got to Josephs and I started on to Iowa the same day Sarah has a daughter it is over two months old its name is adaline frances Sarah says she would sooner live here now than to live in indiana they are entering land every day in the Fort and a great many people on the hunt of land all the time I expect to start home in a few days if I dont get into work anser these lines as soon as you Can if I have left James can take your letter out Direct your letter to fort Demoine Polk County Iowa Nothing more at present.

Jesse Brumfield

29. Albany(Ill) July 2nd 1855.
To our friends and for our friends
We are all well at present I have had the ague 4 days in sucession and worked part of the time Clifton is very stout and rugged and the rest of the family have been very well This season there will be very good crops here this season the wheat is nearly ready for harvest we have a very good garden though the best of it is not matured yet but coming on nicely we have Potatoes as large as hens eggs We have had plenty of fish until within a week or two I have not had time to take any Now I must say that I received a letter from you and Father and also one from Isaiah and Rebecca sine I have written There have been some exciting circumstances occuring last week our Sawyer got his wright hand sawed off between his thumb and fingers and a boy shot an indian boy through the wrist with a rifle and a man got bit with a rattle ~~xxxx~~ snake and is very bad and 2 or 3 more ~~xxxx~~ of minar importance Late in July we have a very good garden this season we have had potatoes all this month all garden vegetables plenty except onions Lumber is very high the prices range from $20.00 to $35.00 dollars per 1000feet the cause is that there has not been but a very little rise in the river this Saeason I will here give you some of the prices of produce wheat $1.55 per bushel corn 70 cts oats 50 potatoes(new) $1.00 Flower $5.00 per hundred weight corn meal 2 bacon hams 10 shoulders 6 pickle pork clear 9 eggs has not been less than 10 cts per dozen milk new 10cts per quart labour (common) $1.00 to $1.25 carpenters as high as $ 2.50(Star working)

299 Sunday Morning, Dallas Co Mo., May 27th 1855.

Respected Friend
I have come to the conclusion to fulfill some of my promises to write to write to my friends and let them know of our welfare and how we are getting along we are enjoying good health except Canandra(?) she has had some shakes of the ague lately but the chills and fever has left her she has a bad cough but is still on the mend we feel in hopes that the Illinois ague will leave her, for my own part I have better health and are able to do more hard work than I have for several years I have made some rail and hauled enough and fenced 17 acres and plowed and planted six acres last years breaking , I have broke 5 acres sod and have 5 acres more to break and plant I break an acre per day with three horses I ~~in~~ have lost my mare which is a great help to me Watson and me have joined teams he breaks a while then me turn and turn about I would have had set out an orchard if I had ground plowed in the right place There is grafted fruit trees here plenty at $10 per hundred I have set out ten of choice fruit we are well satisfied with this country we had three light snows and one rain last winter and no mud we have had but three or four rains that would have wet a person since we have been here One in Oct- one in Jan - and one in April day before yesterday we had a beautiful shower and has been showery ever since this morning cleared up fine and everything looks beautiful it would be useless for me to attempt to give a description of this prairie country in the spring of the year I will just say that this country is aas much better than Indiana as Indiana is over poor old N. Carolina tis true that timber is scarce but there is enough for all if it was equally divided those along the timber can make fence those in the prairie far from (timber) can hedge with osage orange nothing will eat or destroy it in three or four years they will have a good fence so all the timber they will need will be for building and fire wood one great advantage there is plenty of stone coal in this section of the country which is much cheaper than wood add some say better I cannot dispute it the soil will yield more grain of all an any kind by one third than in Indiana with one third less work (your father knows as much or more of this country than I do so I will write no more on that subject all the fault I have heard any ~~xxxx~~ one find with this country is the wind blows to hard tis true the wind blows hard tis cool dry and bracing not hot damp and sultry as in Indiana if it had not rained more there than it has here for the last 2 months the ground could not be plowed here it breaks up mellow and moist corn came up in six days and is growing rapidly so with garden stuff and everything else the grass is from half leg to knee high and cattle have sheded off and look slick and pour out milk by the pails full and butter accordingly and people say this spring was later than common I have heared that William Cook did not like the country and discouraged some from coming I will tell what he told me I told him to tell Stacy Rainier that I liked this country and would not give the land I had bought for his and all between there and winchester for me to live on (and my mind is not altered yet) he says John I can find no fault with your country it is a delightful country only there is no market now I am authorized to say that there is a market for anything anybody has to sell at a fair price Butter has been selling at adel for 20 lb eggs 10 this spring (at the fort(Desmoines) butter 30 eggs 12½). corn 25 Oats 20 wheat 90 to $1 Irish potatoes 50 to 60 Sweet potatoes $ 1 bacon 5 cts ham 6 cts fresh beef 4 & 5 cts and anything will sell that anybody has for sale for money there is no bank in the State consequently no shin plasters ~~[illegible]~~

28 a Cent.
Last fall and winter they would not take Indiana shin plasters for paper rags(that is in the local banks) I dont think there is any here now as I have not seen any lately I want you to collect that money due me from Kennedy & Hutchens as soon as you can and pay Joseph Thornburg if you think you cannot get it soon just put it in the way xxxxxxx to be coming as I want him paid I left a transcript of a judgement in my favor against William Sawyer to the amount of $15 or $16 cost interest & & with ESQ John Johnson for collection not to be pushed but by persuasion I told him I would give him half he could get for his trouble if he has collected it tell him to pay it over to you and if not if you will get it and get what you can in trade and give me one half you will oblige me whether it be little or much I dont recollect the exact amount, Sawyer is a xxxxxxxxxx collored man he may be honest Whether or not take whatever he will pay and it will satisfy me if tis but five dollars or $2 or $1 I dont remember anything more that I needwrite at this time I would like to see all my neighbors out here providing they would be satisfied I should (like) to see them anyhow but I never expect to without they come here If any comes to look at the country I want them to call on us we will do the best we can for them and show them the country as far as we know the advantages as well as the disadvantages Tell Elijah Frazier if he was out here he could make more money in one year by his trade than he could make in there in his lifetime there are three forges in adel and no workmen and as much work as 10 hands could do all they the smiths know is to charge $ 1/3 e piece for pointing harrow teeth 75 cts for sticking a piece of steel on as big as your thumb nail on a plow Cutter $2 $\frac{50}{100}$ for ironing pr singletree a dime a piece for peeping in their shop & & c. I could write a good deal more but it would not amount to much so I shall conclude this after planting is over and I stake and rider my fence I shall take time to look about and if I see the Elephant I will let you know I shall have Leisure and I shall employ myself in writing Give our best respects to all enquiring friends and be sure to tell them that this is a fine country and we are well satisfied and have nothing to regret for coming here I still remain your friend
To Strother Brumfield JohnSylvester.

A Man told me yesterday that any carpenter could get $3 pr day and cannot be got for that that is in Wintersett Capitol of Madison County 20 miles from Adel.

July 18th . the wheat is all harvested I wish you would send me word whether the tax was paid on my land or not if it was not it is sold I expect and but little time to redeem it in the numbers are NE¼ of NE¼ of Sec 11Township 81 North of Range 28 west I have Father's deedfrom Sterling I never undertook to write a letter before this one but what I could write something either foolish or sensible Tell Hi and Jes that I will be wright shortly
Not another word J.B. Mills
Tell Louise to say what she pleases.

30 Vermillion County Illinois July 22nd 1855

Dear Friends I embrace this present opportunity of riting a few lines to inform you that we now live about 35 miles west of where we lived when you was out here I bought 2 hundred acres of unimproved prairie at 6 dollars per acre and 14 acres of good timber at from 10 to 15 dollars per acreI commenced improving about the middle of last March A year I fenced and broke forty acres and raised corn enough to last until nowI hired one hand the balance of the labour I performed myself I broke prarie with three horses abreast I had my timber to haul 5 or 6 miles this last spring hired another hand with the intention of fencing another forty and seding it in corn and have the other one tended I was doing well until about the first of april when I took a pain in my hip which stopped me from work until the first of July but we got our fence up and the old ground planted in corn and about ten acres of the new making in all about fifty acres of cornwhich all looks very well Last fall I built a new house one story high 32 feet long 28 feet wide hauled the lumber about forty miles so you ma reckon I have been tolerable buisy there is a railroad building a few miles east of me and land is on the raise vary fast I suppose I could get ~~xxfty~~ fifteen dollars an acre for mine now and I think it will not be long till it will bring twenty but I like the county very well and I have no desire to sell We are living about sixteen miles west of the Wabash river and about seventeen miles northwest of covington(Ind) and sixteen miles from Williamsport I would now say that myself and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ famley are in reasonable Hea(l)th and I beg here to be excused for so long a neglect in riteing I would ask you to rite soon to me and letme know how you are all getting along and when you heard from your father and mother and how they are getting along I would now say to you that I attended to filling up the grave of little*Marion before I left the neighborhood I also got grave stones for my wifes mother and our three little children I had them put up since I left and if you wish me tohave some put up at marions grave just rite and tell me the size you wantthemto be and the inscription you would like to have put on them it will be but little trouble for me to attend to it as I frequently go back to my old neighborhood
I again request you to rite soon diredt your letters as follows
Myers S Mills vermillion county illinios
No more at present Yours affectionately

George Fisher

(Note: George Fisher married a half sister to Sarah (Davis) Brumfield. The "mother" to whom his letter refers as being buried at the old location, would be Mary Davis Longhrear, mother of Sarah Davis Brumfield.)

* Note: Marion (grave) was eldest child of Sarah Brumfield—wifes Mother would be Mary (Davis) Longhrear

31.

Dallas Iowa,
Aug. 11th - 1855.

Dear Friend:
I now take my pen to inform you how we are getting along Mavi(c?) is unwell at this time she had a touch of the fever and has not got quite well yet I have been unwell from cold for a few days but am getting better the rest are well the more we see of the country the more we like it wheat crops are good and the corn crops have suffered with the drough in this section of country sod corn will be light Garden stuff grows wellMellons and all sorts of vines grows well Just step over and we will let you have a wagonload of mellons and more if you want them I went to the mill on demoines rapids and in right of Buffaloe grove there is a beautiful prairaie between Beaver and demoines but tis too sandy L Slaughter was with me as soon as we got in sight of L. Salughters his children ran meeting us when we met the first salutation was from three mouths at once Lo ~~Ranier~~ Rainier is out here i come on home and sure enough there was Lo smiling like a basket of chips i guess you think we were glad to see one another so do i, Lo came by the school house after school John came here and brought Watsons fish gig and they went to the river but got no fish i asked Lo if he saw any fish he said he saw more fish at one night than he ever saw before put them all together he said he saw more than any wagon bed would hold Lo said that H Knight and Mary did not like the country and sent word to G. Rainier not to move but come out and look at the country Lo staid about here a few days and then went back to get his Clothes when he came back said that Henry and Mary ann liked the country first rate and were about getting land Lo Rainier is is working for L. Slaughter ~~they are making~~ they are making bricks six hands of them in the yard and aim at putting up 100 thousand they have pattent moulds (?) L Slaughter intends building a brick house brick are worth $6 to 7 per thousand plank is worth $25 thou at adel and $ 30at the fort adel is improving fast and 2 new saw mills going up one a steam mill and a large ghrist mill as soon as the saw mills are in operation this country is rapidly improving there has been more sod broke in Iowa this season than for any three years preavious and more than double the grain than of any year preceeding not withstanding the drough it only injured the sod corn and the potatoe Crop some, we have had some fine showers for the last two weeks and every thing growing seems to require Lo and me has been out gunning somewe have kilt pigeons Quails fore squirls and some other game the prairaire chickens are coming in fast we have not kilt any yet when Lo gets his gun we expect to kill a few tell Hiram I took harriot down to the river one evening and kilt a famous big turkey(but dont tell Jesse) Hannah Lu is most to savage for small game Lo shot a pigean with (hen ?) and all we found was the gizzard he would not have found that only it was throbbing and beating in the grass Dry goods are high here and at the fort too the river has been the lowest that ever was known and no navigation Consequently they have to haul all their goodsfrom the Missip Sugar 12½cts Salt $2 per bushel Malanes ? 75 galn rice 12 cts pound and other things in proportion Whet $1 corn 20 to 30 ctsOats 25 bacon hams 8 rices(?) 7 cts shoulders 6 Butter 12 to 15 eggs 8 to 10 rags 2 cts per pound providing there is no Indiana State Stock bills among them , if there is no sale ~~Spa~~ Specie has been plenty, getting more scarce now, Business especially building

31 Cont.
would be brisk providing lumber could be got, timber is plenty vut we lack the mill Granny Slaughter wants to go to Oregon She say if all of us were as willing to go as she is we would start she thinks further west the better the land, as Indiana is better than Carolina so is Iowa better than Indiana but Iowa soil is good enough for me at present

I was not much surprised to see L. Rainier out here as I was the way he came I heared that he was to work for you then I told Cassandra that if Uncle Jesse came out this summer Lo would come with him and I thought Hiram would come too Land is getting up here timbered land sells from $10 to $30 I gave $5 average prairaie and timber can now get $8 to 10 I wish you would give our best respects to Mr Bowman and family I understand that he is well satisfied and would not take $15.00 for his place i am glad that he is satisfied and wish him long to live and well to do. I would not swap with him and come back there to live for his place and $1500 to boot We would be glad to see all our old neighbors and friends (we) hear from them often but I have heard no one express a wish to go back there to live Anly Cana(?) when she was sick said that if she was there she would stay there she is out of that now and I believe she is perfectly satisfied at any rate we have her word for it Friend Strother any thing that I can do for you out here i will do with pleasure

I would write a great deal more but I have nothing of importance that i can think of at this time. Louisa I would like to see that little fellow just fetch him out here I would like to hear him say Old Johnny we would like to see you all here we would treat you to fresh on any kind of wild fowl such as prairaie chicken Squirrels and fish if you see old uncle Jone(?) Rainier tell him I expect that he has been wondering what old Johnny has been about in the big prairaie tell him that I have been fencing and breaking and putting a crop of corn pumpkins, mellons, potatoes cabbage & 18 acres fenced staked and widened and broke I have read a great deal we take 3 news papers I have hunted some for small game such as rabbits squirrls and praraie chickens Pheasants pigeans and i have been to the river and back several times and caught persh the large fish will not bite an expert gig man can catch large fish plenty when the wind dont ripple the water I have seen enough fish at one night as long as my arm to fill a barrell I have been to the fort several times and 18 miles to mill I have put up 2 stacks of hay and have 4 more to make this side of frost and then cut up part of my corn I have to sow 3 to 4 acres of fall wheat, tis all a fordge(?) about fall wheat not growing here the dirt dont blow and leave the roots bare I have seen a good crop of fall wheat this season the man told me that last year he raised 100 bushels of clean measured fall wheat on two and a half acres of groundand I believe it I have seen spring wheat that turend off thirty bushels to the acre and twenty acres in the field this year this has been as dry and windy a season as ever was known in Iowa and I have seen as much dust rise from one wagon going along the road in Indiana as I have seen in Iowa. put it all togather as far as injuring my eyes my specks has grown to old for me I have thrown them away we have a half acre garden broke last August that will crop with any highly manured garden that I have seen North, South or East NF was out there the other day since the rain and thought the ground was alive with gophers and our garden would be destroyed on examination i found that it was the vegetables pushing one another out of the ground, to make room and the mellons were

31 Cont. (3rd pg)
racing to(o) --some trying to outgrow others some bursted like the frog in the fable then I vampoosed Receive for your selves and then give our respects to all enquiring friends

John Sylvester

To Strother Brumfield.

32. Lancaster Aug 25th 1855.

Dear Cousins. It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to inform you that we have got home safe and found the folks all well. We arrived at uncle williams on Thursday eave ning and found aunt delily boyer there . (curhendoll it used to be) They have all ban well while we was gone and had plenty of company. There is a right smart of sicness in the neighborhood of the flux and feaver They had the heavest reign last wednesday eavning that has befor for ten years. The eavning we was in Colubus the reign washed the railrode away between columbus and zanesvill and the cars did not get in till the next morning. The peaches is getting ripe and some of the trees is broken down. There is a great many apples The corn looks ~~xxxx~~ exceedingly well wheat is a doller and quarter a bushel I had a very jolly time the eavning I got home it was the last day of school and I went over there was several large girls there I think I will put out a crop of wheat this fall add then go to school this winter and next summer I feel very sad since I left you. They had a party in the neighborhood while I was away there was about twenty couples there The rest of the community is all well. Let all of the folks here from us. I must close as I have no more to say. Now write soon and let us hear from all of you. Yours with respect.

Solomon Hunter, Lancaster, Ohio

33. Sept. 30th (probably 1855)

Dear Cousins: I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines Wee are all well at preasant I hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing I received your letter the 10 of september Wee were all very sorry to hear of uncle death We all must part with friends in this world but if wee live as God requres of us we will meet in the nix world where parting will be know more I would have ancered your letter sooner but father add Joseph had the chills and fever but tha are well at preasent ~~xx~~ Eliza boy has had chills mr Cooper family has all had the chills this fall but tha are well at preasant The cars run in 18 mils of here through Ottawa in lasall County ubcle benjamen children all lives in Ottawa Sarah Jane husband keep eating selune under the Ottawa Bank his name is andrew anderson knothing more at preasant my love to you all.

Diannah Brumfield
Louisa Brumfield
Strother Brumfield.

33.

Banora, Gutherie Co Iowa.
Oct 9th 1855.

Highly Esteemed Friend,

Having for a considerable time delayed writing to you in answer to yours of July 29th I have now taken my pen to write you a few lines to let you know that I am still in the land of the living and the State of Iowa. I am enjoying pretty good health. the only detriment being a cold which I have caught within a day or two by undue exposure.

The rest of the family are well also Josephs family are also well but he has the ague himself having got it by exposure while going to Rock Island after Mose and his family It was cold and rainy most of the time while he was gone, and he camped out. Moses children , that is two of them, had the ague when they started and they had it still , last Friday the last time that I have heard from them. There has been no sickness in this county since I have been here worth noticing. Indeed I never saw it more healthy in Indiana. It is a little more sickly here now in some places in Adel there has been a few cases of fever and some ague, but in this county there has been but few cases of ill health, and those only the ague . Joe Rainier had the ague last week. I do not know whether he has it yet or not. he has engaged to work for Joe nine months.

The weather is now exceedingly pleasant but for about three weeks back it was most of the time cloudy and considerable of rain, not enough however to raise the river much . Crops are good of all kinds. It was so dry here in the early part of the season that people began to fear there would not be enough raised to support the present population. But though late the rains came in time to bring out corn and make about an average crop, and vines are uncommonly thrifty. I have seen 10 times as many melons this summer and fall as I ever saw in all my life before The qunatity of pumpkins is enormous. Everything but corn and wheat exceeds anything that I ever saw before in the vegetable line. Being dry in the early part of the season injured the wheat some and the corn is rather lighter in some palces at least than it would have been in other circumstances.

Oct 14th I came to this place last monday for the purpose of daguerreatyping but on arriving here I found the circuit court in session, in the school house(the only house I could obtain)so I could do nothing towards my business. The next days as I had nothing to do I concluded to write to some of my friends and accordingly proceeded as far as to the above date,. The court adjourned at two oclock on tuesday without having tried a single case and the grand jury were dismissed without having found a bill. I have done little here yet in taking the citizens but the prospect seems favorable.

A company of ladies made me a visit yesterday(the second time I have been thus favored here)and promised to call this evening and have their "purties" taken, but the house was occupied for holding a special election to choose a Justice of the Peace. So you see I had the pleasure- That is I took it answered for an excuse,you know- of going round and calling on the ladies to tell them I could not accomodate them. It is sarurday evening We were left at the tavern so long waiting for supper that the people began to collect at our rooms which is at once church, court house and school house and in short it is used for nearly everything

33 Cont.
--before we could get our fixings straightened away, so we threw them to one side out of the way a little and let um rip. This was the last chance I have had to get a peep at the "fair ones " of this city-- and it happened to be avillage containing four pretty good stores snd about twenty dwellings, and perhaps half a dozen shops of different kinds -- that you know was something worth while-- a great deal better than the preceeding , if it had not been I dont know where-- just where I was I reckon but you wouldnt catch me there again.

Well after all I shant tell you what I think about them, but instead tell you about the country. The country around here is most beautiful -- and good too. Better for farm land than about Adel-- that is more beautifully situated. do not know as the soil is better. You may be at a loss to know what I mean by me. Well I'll tell you -- if you will just hold a moment. I have an apprentice learning the photographic art. I expect soon to take another one so you see I am driving busines-- after being new at the first place that I have set up on my own hook.

Give my respects to friends and please write soon. Direct to Adel.

J.A. Sylvester to Strother Brumfield.

34. (a fragment)

They are going to pop the railroad write throug this season from Iowa City to Demoines we have voted a loan of three hundred thousand dollars that is polk county in order to enable the company to pop it through they are to pay it as soon as they can make it on the road(the loaned money) the county all along the rod the same as polk county owing to the population.

Alfred has gone to look at kansas I have talked to several that has been there they say that some parts of kansas is a fine country but the choice part is all claimed up timber very scarce only along the streams no stone coal discovered anywhere yet in iowa we have thousands of coal and lots of wood you know iowa is my choice I would be glad to hear from all the folks Jesses Mothers lib and all the folks but as I do not write to them they do the same in turn it is nothing but absolute negligence on my partthat prompts me so distant in commucicating I give my respects to all inquiring friends and relatixesons. No more at present but remain your affectionate brother

James Holcroft to
Strother Brumfield.

Excuse me for not writing more for I cannot think of any thing more to write.

The state books and papers will be moved to Demoines this season or that is the present calculation.

Allen and his wife is doing fine. no sign of any increase yet.

Still direct your letters to the old name Ft Desmoines the name of the post office is not changed.

(Note the above must have been written before Nov. 1857 as the State Capitol was moved to Ft. Desmoines at that time)

35.
Sept 19th at D 1855.
Respected brother
I received your letter yesterday and was glad to See that you could drop a few lines to me As you wrote nothing concerning the health of your family I will suppose you are all well
I will turn your attention to the land affair and what it is worth There is about sixty acres under fence and well broke The land in buffalow grass is worth Ten dollars per acre The land in polk county is not worth quite so much it is covered with a pawn ? as you know The true circumstances of the farm you will see in the letter i wrote to jesse, that is concerning the wrents etc

James Holcraft

36. Sept 30th (1855 - Probably)

Dear Cousins I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines We are all well at preasant I hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing I received your letter the 10th of September Wee where all verry sorry to hear of uncle death We all must part with friends in this World but if we live as God requires of us Wee will meet in the next World Where parting will be know more I would have answered your letter sooner but father and Jospeh had chills and fever but they are well at preseant Eliza boy has had the chills Mr Cooper family has all had the chills this fall but they are well at preasant The cars run in 18 miles of here through Ottawa in lasall County Uncle Benjamin Children all live in Ottowa Sarah Jane husban keep eating salun under the Ottawa bank his name is andrew anderson ------ more at preasant
my love to you all Diannah Brumfield
louisa Brumfield
Strother Brumfield

A duplicate of 33

37. October 20th 1855.
Dear brother
I received your letter on the 18th inst and was glad to hear from you but sorry to hear that it is so sickly in Randolph As for us we are well and hearty it is healthy generally speaking there is some fever and ague I think this is a healthier country than old sokum ever was or ever will be I have been stouter since I got over my first fall sickness than I ever was since I can recollect I can stand in the water from morning till knight and do it and not faze me
A word concerning the capitol the capitol is bound to come to Ft Desmoines there is five commissiioners appointed to come and select the most suitable place the bill says any where within two miles of the forks of the coon and desmoines rivers The time set for the commissioners to relocate is first of May 56 or within thirty days
Concerning the amount of land in iowa there is 320 acres in dallas and 80 in polk the tax receipts I gave to father when he was out he said he would leave them with Joseph Slaughter I give my respects to both friends and reaations no more at present but I remain your affectionate brother until death

James Holcraft to
Strother Brumfield.

38. Albany (ie Illinois)
Nov 4th 1855.

Dear Brother I take this opportunity of informing you that we are all well at present and hope when you receive these few line you may be ebjoying a good degree of health Lib had a relapse of the fever when we arrived there but it did not last her but one week and she is getting quite stout again more so than she has been since last winter we was nearly three days traveling after we left Winchester until we arrived at Joes well we was detained 28 hours at the railroad stations I have been at work some at two dollars a day to morrow I am going to work at the same price and boarded for a Mr Renneda in the country My goods has not arrived yet I like the appearance of the west very well So far Oh! !'I eat some fish for you since I come here and some for Auld Stace ten I do not want to hear you bragging about your apples without you had more of them and a deal better there are plenty of them here Lib is writing to Pap Sarah Jane is writing to somebody Mary perusing an eastern magazine Lib and Ann Eliza is parching corn Clifton is a large fat fellow coming around at a high rate Ja is minus(?) We all have been fishing today will you have some if so call in the morning before breakfast I saw a little fish last night as large as yourself yes more yes more than a boat load

The reason that I have not written to you sooner I thought that I would wait until my good arrived

Oh my heavens the roasted duck we have had since we came here there are lots of them here Lib says that she would not live in Sochom she and Mary earned themselves a dress each and here are the samples of them the red is Libs and the dark is Marys 12½ cts pr yard all earned last week by making 2 boys coats and they are going to make 3 more this week and that will be 3 dollars I forgot Mary Jane she is well and calls(?) Straws(?)

I was at Rock Island 3 days week before last waiting for my goods and they did not come. No more at present but our respects to our friends. H H. Brumfield

Mr S.B. tell Father that I recd his letter and shall write to him shortly
J.B. Mills

39. November the 19th 1855

Sarah P. Holcraft to Elizabeth Branson.

I take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you now that we are all well at present except bad colds I hope that these few lines will find you enjoying the blessing one of the greatest that we ever ---(only a fragment)

40. Albany(Illinois)
Nov/ 25th 55.

Dear Dad: I am writing a few lines to let you know that we(two families) are all well at present and shall be glad to receive an answer soon to these few lines bringing the same news from all our friends in Sochum this is a very healthy part of the country if you will speak a cross word or two to the ague that is all and none of that now

Lib is very stout at this time Hi has gained six pound here Mary Jane is very fat and has not been sick since they came here I think Clifton would give you a hard scuffle if you were here Hi says he is as large(as) Bill Alt a very good kind of stock A very vicious varmint ran Hi into the house

Cont p. 29

40a

Adel Dallas Iowa Dec th 3 1855.

Respected Friend
I am at Adel today in order to get the information you requested of me The court setts the first Monday in every month throughout the State there is no law in pamphlet form in regard to the tax it has to be paid by the first of Jan if not there is 25 pen let added Joseph Slaughter says there was no paper left with him except the article of agreement between your Father and the man he rented it to he furthermore says that the man was to pay the tax but he has sold out and gone but he told Slaughter the man he sold it to is to pay the tax Slaughter thinks it doubtful We are all as hearty as Bucks and have hardly had the soles of our shoes mudy since we have been in Iowa why I dont write any more the mail will be closed in an hour or two and we have only one mail a week I shall give you a full letter next mail

I remain yours as ever John Sylvester
to Strother Brumfield I send this the first mail after the receipt of yours.

40b

Adel Dallas Iowa Dec 13 1855.

Dear Friend
I now take my pen to fill my promise in writing these few lines. though I have little if any of any importance to communicate I think that I wrote in my last that we are all well and hearty as bucks, we now are somewhat affilcted with bad colds We had snow in the latter part of Nov th some 7 or 8 Inches deep, the weather than moderated and it was quite sloppy for several days (but not muddy) then we had a cold snap for a couple of days L. Rainier and myself went to the demoine rapids to mill it was quite blustery xxxxxxxxxx crosing the prairie we went very slow as he had an ox team and I would not leave him we slept in the waggon at night and I took the severest cold I ever had it is generally healthy in this part of the country as far as I know except bad colds I told you I loast old Fan bought a yellow colt one year old for forty dollars and got forty dollars for one cow and two calves. I kept the colt a month and then sold it for $50 Cash I then bought a bay mare for $80 That brindled heifer that I got from Elijah Frazier had a xxxx calf last spring I sold her for $25 without the calf some few days ago the calf is worth $5 Did I tell you that (Moses ?) Slaughter arrived out here safe and they are delighted with the country and he built him a fine house on the top of Mount Nebo he can stand in his yard (no not his yard he has none) no his meadow and count thirty three dwelling houses besides the one that A.M. Hulim put up Moser bought 52 acres one mile North of J Slaughter We can stand in our yard and see the very sills of his house, he has neither bush nor stupp to his name he says he is as rich as he wants to be

Out turn over

You may perhaps wish to know how J rainier is getting along well first rate he is well and hearty and so fat he can hardly see and appears to like the country well he appears as contented as a lamb he and L Slaughter have been out hunting several times and shot forty times save one I shall not tell you this time how many deer they have kilt you must guess they only took two home L Rainier shot one about twenty five or thirty steps one evening about the dark of the the evening

See 28b.

the 2 Ls went to get it the next morning but it was not there being now on the ground they stepped the distance it was one hundred and fifty steps they need a good rifle to kill a deer in the prairie let them be far or near about fish I have heard no talk of them since cold weather set in Strother if you ever come to this country you will be surprised when you see fort Desmoines it has improved so fast it bids fair to be the largest city in the west Adel is improving fast you would hardly know the place there has some thirty or forty frame houses gone up this fall we have six large stores well packed with goods and are renewing daily. Adel is a business place for the size of it some think there is more goods sold in Adel than in Winchester they have a first rate steam circuit saw mill cut between 5 & 6 M per day the old saw mill site has sold for seven thousand dollars cash down in Gold to a company from N York they are about to build a large flower Mill with a run of bursa carding machine and several other sorts of machinery Godds are about the same price as they have been for some time Produce Pork $ 4 to $5 ,beef $5 to $6 Fowl $1.50 per dozen potatoes 30 to 40 oats 25 wheat $1 turnips 20 cts cabbage 6 cts butter 25 eggs 12½ per doz other produce in proportion and in demand

I have wrote a good many L, now (papa?) wants me to write some too in the first place out family unitedly send our best respects to yourself and family and all our friends and hope that these may find you all enjoying the best of blessings We would be glad to hear from Aunt Sarah (Tavinen ?) where she is and how she is getting along and also how James Gordon is getting along and what he has done with his children and how they are We feel anxious to hear from him but he is no hand to write We take this method to hear from him We all of us feel for him for his loss and wish him well to do While passing through this vale of tears we would be glad to hear from out old neighbors and friends Generally but we have give that out long since I have received but one letter from Indiana , except from yourself , though we have made more than one score Tell hiram I sold Hannah L for $16 I still hold on to Harriet She kilt 20 blackbirds for me at one shot and the ground was literally covered with the wounded and not a good blackbird day at that place tell hiram to send a line or two if he has not that much send A galf a line it will be acceptable cattle and horses are held high but not much sale at this time Land is high and raising Timber ranges from $15 to $30 Prairie from $5 to 15, unimproved Improved land sells according to improvements Sheep have sold for $2 per hd on average there has been two large droves for sale

Dec 16 1855

Strother the winter here thus far has been a Hoosier winter with the exception of mud the rivers are up some higher at this time than they have been for the last 18 month

Saturday Dec. 5th It has been showery all day wind SE,at night W NW turn cold and snowed hard the worst storm we have had since we have been here Elze Lank and another man was 70 or 80n miles up middle coon looking at the country we understand they were out in the rain all day Saturday and out on the prairie at night and lost in the storm somehow they got separated the other man got to some shelter and was saved but E Seank (I dont know how to spell his name) became exhausted sank and perished with the cold they went and found him next morning. There was some signs of life but he expired in a short time those that were acquainted with him say that Dallas has lost one of its smartest men and best citizens how uncertain is life we are here and know not where we may be tomorrow

See p 28c

40 b Cont.
since we left there we have heard that several of our friends and many of our acquaintances have gone to the Bourne from whence no traveler returns does not this say to us be also ready.

Christmas Day since writing the foregoing we receive a letter from J.B. Mills Dated Dec. 3 They were all well he gave us the number of his family also the weight of each he also informed us that Hiram and his family was there and well satisfied with the country Hiram was at work at $2 per day , Hiram also put in a few few lines Have nothing more at present but remain yours as ever
John Sylvester to Strother Brumfield

By this mail I send an instrument of writing that I Got from the Clerk of the Court Fee 50 cts.

although he was in the act of kicking it about forty feet well he hollered for me the old soldier manfully I ran to his assistance and extricated him from danger and then got my gun and renewed the battle with great fury and killed the skunk! Tell Stacey Rainier that the last deer that I saw was so fat and running so fast that he ran through himself all but his horns and thenhe pulled off in turning himself Hi killed three quail today and they were thick of fat on them as my hand all animals are in good con dition here at this time the earth imparts a much more nutriment to its products here than in Socham consequently we find animals here in a condition that nature designed them to be Tell us inyour next if you have any ice there as we have not here very nice weather this Hi has earned $40,00 in 20 days and is still at it and is well pleased to see the abundant productions of of those beautiful praries.
Hirams goods arrived here on the 13th in good condition nothing broke.

Tell Louisa to be careful of that buggy when she is driving over them pole roads and save it for dallas County when she gets there she can drive as though the devil was after her and hurt nothing

There is some talk about a railroad here again and there must be one along the river and it will come along by or near your land either on the north or south there is something secret about the matter for some cause or other there is an idea afloat that the road may come on this side of the Spurlock Bottom if so your land will be in the right place if by town it is also right

No more at present but our best respects to our friends.

Joseph B Mills

PS Mr Gorrell still keeps enquiring about the matter between you and him

40. Dec. 16th AD 1855

Dear Brother I received your letter on the 13th inst and was glad to hear from you We are all well at present and hope these few lines will find you enjoying good health times are gdod here money plenty wages high and plenty to do

A word concerning the coutts Circuit court sets four times per year Spring session sets the third monday in Aprile. Probabte court sets once every month that is the court you want to attend The clerk of the court instructed me that the addministrator could sell an estate either at public or private sale just as the court decides I have paid the tax on the polk Co land it was $1.20 one dollar and twenty cents as to the polk Co land being a good mill site I answer you this past summer it was pretty near dry or I should say the water ceased running out of the lake if beaver can be turned into the lake without to great expense I presume it would be a pretty good mill site

As to what it will bring in the spring I cannot exactly tell you that it is owing to circumstances You spoke of sending money to pay the tax on the dallas co land I think the wrents of the farm ought to pay that if you will appoint me agent to attend to the wrent of the farm I think I can raise money enough to pay the tax. I dont suppose Joseph Slaughter knows anything about what is going on he never was on the farm as I know of yet I see them every few weeks they trade at the Ft altogether I make no charge whatever for what I do for the estate that is for my services we ought to do it up with as little expense as possible Probably Slaughter and Sylvester --

40. Continued.

will charge pretty high for their services.
I have not time to enumerate any more so fare you ~~welat~~ well at present both friends and relations.

James Holcraft to
Strother Brumfield

It is now time to pay tax on the farm probably it is better to let Sylvester attend to it.

41. (Original of this letter very faded.)

Tuesday morning, Feb 7th 1856.

Dear Cousin--- It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to inform you that we are well at present and hope these few l ines may find you enjoying the same blessing I received your letter last Monday and was very happy to hear from you I have been right stout for about six weeks till monday I had a very hard chill and yesterday We have had a sleighing snow for about six weeks It has been the coldest winter that ever has been known in this county. the thermometer was twenty nine degrees below zero last sunday. This morning it is reigning and snow is melting very fast I should like to go with you to iowa but I am not very stout. I will go to school next summer and if I get my health buy next spring a year I will go to iowa and get a tract of land and have a house put on it and then I will come back and get my wife if I dont marrie her before that time. I wrote threeletters and never received and answer. I rote one to Jessy and one to Stanton and never received and answer. I dont know whether they got them or not. I dont know of any one going to iowa from this neighborhood I must now close as my hand is getting tremuolous. Tell the rest of them how we are getting along and tell them to write and let us hear from them soon. Write when you get back from iowa and write about the country. I should like to be out with you but as my health has been pore I will not go out yet.

Write soon and let us hear from you all.

Yours with respect,
Solomon Hunter.

42. Albany(Illinois) July 6th / 56.

Mr S. Brumfield
Sir.

I have concluded to let you know that we recd a letter from you sometime after your return from here and not having anything of great importance to write to you is the reason that I have not answered you sooner and have nothing yet of special interest we are all well and have been so this Season so far Last Monday Hi and Lib left here for Fulton County Ind. for the purpose of taking up their residence with Pap and mam (Just think what you please of it and so will I) I have been taking a little tramp around for 2 days past day before yesterday I went to Morris Station on the Rail Road(12 miles) I then took the cars and went to Fulton City (8 miles) and then a waggon home (8 miles) Next day I crossed the creek over to Iowa(2½ miles)thence to Clinton City (8 miles)thence to Lyons (4 miles) then boarded the River Packet and returned home and have had a pleasant time and now have good reason to be dissatisfied at this place. the Iowa side of the River in this vicinity Say for 20 miles is going ahead of this side in improvement Let me know when the farm in Buffalo Grove could be had posession of and on what terms that is all the land

42. Continued.
that is in cultivation likely I may bring up there as Mary wants to go there and the women rules I am writing on my knee and am about to stop

J. B. Mills

I orter wrote sooner but I didnt.

43.

March 26th 1856.

Dear wife I arrived at Fort Desmoines yesterday the 25th about 1 oclock PM after three days and knights travel from Iowa City by Stage and had to walk ~~fixxxxxx~~ fully half the way the roads was varry muddy . I am well at present but by the loss of sleep somewhat fatigued hoping these few lines may(find) you all well the folks are all well as far as I have wentI arrived at Josephs on Wednesday morning I found Mary and the children in bed I slipped in the room and took on surprise They bounced and squealed out Uncle Strother. uncle Strother. Clifton says uncle Strother have you got any apples before was there ten minutes. I have not time to write much more I crossed the Mississippi River a foot on the ice and was vary dangerous but I got over safe but was some what scared I done fine on the cars seen a great deal of fine country and no snow in Iowa not much in Illinois I was surprised when I seen Fort Desmoines I cannot tell you when I will be at home but soon as I can The most trouble I will (have) getting home will be from Fort Desmoins to Iowa City a distance of 136 miles of staging and the frost just coming out of the ground the slews vary bad

No more at present but remain your affectionate husband till death

Strother Brumfield

(This addition in pencil)

This country pleases me ~~bete~~ (better) as ever it did I can get $3.00 per day at carpenter work and board myself if I had the time I would work some.

44. Here follows two sale bills. The first apparently is the bill for the sale of the Property of Jesse Brumfield(Sr) deceased 52 items of personal property are listed including household goods and farm implements of various kinds.
The greatest amount paid for any item was $11. 75 for a cook stove sold to Bartley Franklin. Aaron Ballard purcahsed a Bureau for $10.00 Jesse Brumfield purcahsed a scythe and cradle for $ 2.60. The smallest amount paid for item was 4 ¢ paid for a square by Amos Smith.

The second sale is that of Hiram Brumfield apparently made when he left Randolph County before Nov 1855. Purchasers are all residents of the old home community. There are twenty four items listed The highest price paid is for one yearling ~~xxxx~~ colt $33.40 sold to --- Brumfield and the second highest is for one yearling heifer sold to John Robinson for $6.25 Strother , Sarah, and Stanton Brumfield were all purchaseres at the sale.

45. Next appears the authorization from the County Judge of Polk County Iowa to Strother Brumfield to act as administrator of the estate of Jesse Brumfield Deceased . This is dated March 27th 1856

46.

Albany Sept 7th 1856.

Mr S. Brumfield

Sir

In compliance partially I will now write you a few lines but are not fully and entirely Mary has been sick but is stout and hearty at present Sarah Jane is also well Elizabeth Ann and Ann Eliza had an attack of the fever and are doing very well now Clifton and Hiram has had the measles very hard and are not well yet and I never saw a person have so much fever before with that disease I was taken with a chill last evening but think that it will be the last at least hope so I pay no doctor bills while I keep my senses and they do not buy all the medicine and gather all the herbs

You asked some questions which will answer to the best of my ability without repitition Hi had money enough to take him to Harpers and some more Gart(?) Garrett is a scoundel and Says nothing about the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ land trade and I think he is and ignorant fool and has found ignorance elsewhere as in the trade with Father and another with Mr Hollowell in title bonds for the land not being good and I am of the same opinion that I was when you was here that it was good and that for two years but he told Mr Hollowell that he claimed his forfeit($20.00) and he said no more and would not stand a lawsuit 30 miles from here and he in Philadelphia at the time that it was claimed

I have paid the road tax on Father's lot a man asked me if he would take five hundred dollars for it I said no Well said he I will give it

You say that that railroad is about to fall through I can hardly think that it will there is something in it probably that I do not understand and I think that it is specualtion in the stock if it can be cried down there may be great Speculation for some person or Company I have seen the same thing tryed here and ~~xxxxx~~ caried at Fulton City You will have to help the cause by donation of certain lots and a little more money or it ~~xxxx~~may go to Clinton City or Albany the people scared and rather than lose what they had invested complyed

Not got the blues so bad as you may think if I keep my health and times keep up and I can raise and I think I can a few dimes against the time of the Sale of the farm in Buffalo Grove and there is no inducement for me to go there at present that I know of. From what I hear(of)Nelson Flack he will find a harder road to travel here or over Jordan either You may see us in Indiana before we move to Iowa but not this fall not flush enough at present but one word to you if I had land enough there to make me a farm I would have been there before now so you have I shall try to attend to that after a while I would be glad to know that the sale of the farm could be postponed one year longer the Railroad project that was on hand when you were here has been droped by the people here but if a or the company wants to build it they may The project now in view is a connection with the road that runs from Detroit west and Mendota Illinois a point about ten miles from here and is finished and under construction to that point which you can see by reference to a late map the stock is all taken the survey nearly completed the stockholders are going pay overe sixty thousand dollars in about two weeks so that the road will be put under contract next month this read(road) leaves Chicago to the North so that the detention of freight of two or three months at that placewill be disposed of and also a heavy drayage bill and if I am not mistaken there will be

46 Cont.
a road here and the cars on it in less than one and also one from the opposite side of the river to Iowa City the Warsaw road must come here and must be built immediately if the river gets much lower it is 10 inches lower than ever known before where you and we crossed it when you were here a man can wade it all but about three rods there is lots of dead fish over the river in the big slough(as we call it) and there was not such a thing before since I have been here and I cannot tell how the fishing will be this season I will let you (know) about (it) after a while I take three papers have sent you one the mail that carries this letter will carry another and will send you one of my black papers after a while 10 oclock it has been very sickly here Some of ? ?

J.B. Mills

(written on the side) Freemont men all about here
Free men, Freelaws Free Speech Free Territory and Freemont and Taylor A piece of Marys dress 30¢ a yard.

47.

Iowa Falls Hardin Co Iowa
Nov. 24th 1856

Dear Friend

After so long delay I have taken my seat to write you a few lines, to let you know that I am still alive. I amwell (pand ?) at the place where this is dated I have been traveling and working some at Ambrotyping during the last 3 months. I have made nothing as yet by the apprentice in a pecuniary view. Whether I ever shall or not I cannot tell but I am going to try. I have not been at home for over a month The folks were all well when I was there. I got father to attend to that land business of yours I have been so long in strange places Where news is scarce that I do not know what to write. Since I left home I have not read the papers, paid no attention to polotics. I am as ignorant of what is going on in the World as one who cannot read and lives upon the frontiers.

The place where I am now staying is quite young-less than a year old-- is the most promising place I have been in. It is situated on the Iowa river-- good building stone abundant. good water power, and good stone buildings . It settled principally by quakers who are the most enterprising set of people I have met with. I do not like this country so well as Dallas, Polk, Story, or Boone as far as soil is concerned . But the people make up for this deficiency , by their enterprise and thrift. Times are pretty good, business lively, money matters are a little tighter here than usual but the pressure is not much felt. We had early frost which injured much of the corn-- the earliest frost has been known here,.

I have purchased half a car , in which I am to work When I leave here which will be soon I am going to Cedar Falls on Cedar River along which I expect to spend the winter, unless I change my mind. I expect to leave here about the first of next week. This county gave 402 majority for Freemont out of about 800 votes . Gundy ?) gave one democratic vote out of nearly 100. Being so far from home I had not the pleasure of casting a vote for Freemont. Please write to me direct to Waterloo, Blackhawk County.

Yours respectfully, J.A. Sylvester

Strother Brumfield

48.

Garden Plain April 4th 1858

Dear Uncle:

I now set down this beautiful morningto write you a few lines to let you know that I am well and the rest of the folks was well the last time I was home. I have not been home for four weeks tomorrow. It is beautiful weather The farmers have been making garden last weeks I am going to church this afternoon they have a very good meeting here There is a Sabbath school this forenoon up at the corners. I wrote a letter to Uncle Jesse last sunday and Aunt Harriett I am staying in the country now and think I shall stay all summer He has rented his farm and there will be very little to do They have plenty of good apples to Uncle Strother and now you need not say another word about your apples They have larger apples here and better tasting than they have there I think I have been out horse back riding three times aready this spring and I shall go a great many times if I live this summer times are very hard here but the roads are dry though while your roads are mud mud mud mud, I presume why dont you go away from that that old mudy mudying(tconty?) place I know what is the reason beacuse you derrent Father was working at his trade out in the country all last winter and he got reasonable wages I think if you would go out to Iowa Father would I will not write any more to you today Uncle Strother to you I remain your affectionate niece To Sarah J. Mills write soon.

To Strother Brumfield

Direct your letters Garden Plain Write soon and write to Whiteside (?) Ill me Please do.

(Same Letter:)

Dear Aunt(Louise)

I thought I would write a few lines to you with the poetry We have not heard from Uncle Hiram since her baby was born. Mother has teased me to write to them but I will not write to them agane you may look for me in the fall if nothing happens no more than I know of I should like to see you all and hope that I soon shall I should like to see Sippo and Clinton very much Do they resemble Joseph Gilmore or Marion I should like to know I have commenced some poetry about Marion but I cannot finish them until I go home and I will se nd them the next time I write Mothers health is very poor at present Ann Eliza is very poorly Elizabeth Ann the same Clifton is very hearty Hiram the same Hiram resembles Clifton when he was his age I am much obliged to Uncle Strother for his negro sermon and the sale of a wife I shall keep it until I died and then I shall will it to some of my friends I dont know who that is yet but I have an idea Aunt (Breen ?) if she will write to me I will the same I would write anyway if I thought it would get an answer and I want to know if Rachel Ranier lives there yet and if she is there I have not got any letter lately Tell Martha Jane and Stanton that it is time she is answering my letter and Aunt Lib the same It is time that I was getting dinner so no more at present but remain your affectionate neice

S.J. Mills to Louisa Brumfield

Write soon and I will do the same.

48a.

June 11th 1858.
(from Lancaster O. Ohio)

Dear Cousins as I could not go to the picnic on account of the rain I will take the liberty to answer your letter as Solomon is not at home. He is now in nebraska likes the country very well and had entered a piece of land two miles from Omaha Citty We are all well and glad to hear from you again we thought you had quite forgotten us and you may know your letter met withe a hearty welcome There has been any quantity of rain here . Consequently a good many farmers could not plant half they intended on account of their land being overflowed with water hard times is the general complaint here the roads are almost impassable now buggies and wagons are dispensed with and we have to go on horseback They were all well at Amandas the last account except her oldest child she has the white swelling and has not walked without Crutches for the last year The western fever is raging in the neighborhood Nearly all the young men have left for Nebrasky Dad my bean with h the rest Solomon is coming home this fall Cousin T.ketners are going to Kansas as seems he returns the last account he had started(see letter No 97) Lewis Hunter is in Illinois teaching school I would love to come out and see all my cousins I am sorry you and your lady cannot come in We have been expecting you this spring Tell Lib to write to me Mother and Jane send their respects to all

I must close now close my idier have give out as well as my pen I will send you a paper with this I have herd bub speak of Amy Platt I suppose he would like to see her he enjoyed his visit very much out there

Give my love to all inquiring friends while I write
respectfully remain
Your Affec Cousin
Hannah C. Hunter

Strother Drumfield Louisa Drumfield Excuse imperfections.

49.

1729734

Adel, Dallas Co Iowa.
Feb 6th - 1859.

Dear Sir:

Yours of Jan 22nd was received Feb 1st. We were glad to hear that you were enjoying health which is best of all temporal helssings, that we can enjoy here. we through the dispensation of of Divine providenceare partakers of the same blessing at this time but we have nearly all been sick with bad colds since I wrote last (times) hard here yet out State Bank is in operation and money seems to be more in circulation with those that have anything to fetch it. but it takes a large quantity of produce to fetch in a small pile of money. Henry Thornburgh has bought several hundred bushels of corn at 15 cts bush. there has been good prairie land about four miles NE from here sold for Congress price (cash) timber land rates from ten to $25.00 per acre Dry goods and groceries at high prices but dull sale Yes I did forget that certificate I have it and two receipts for tax(to wit) for 1855 & 1856 I shall inclose them in this letter Yes I am well acquainted with Jeremiah Perkins he is own cousin to Watson G Anderson the first time I ever saw him was at our house about twenty years ago the next time was ~~xxxx~~ 3 years ago last spring when he came to Adel since then we have a chat every time we meet. he is an attorney counselor at law and I believe Notary Public I think he is a nice sort of man &c &c. Now for the weather the first day of December it commenced snowing and made good sleighing which lasted for two weeks then left. the weather has been fine ever since up to the 2nd day of February the wind from the south and southwest most of the time roads got dry and dusty some however we had one or two days every week that was pretty cold we have had but one small thimble of rain since December came in the first of December the river froze over between here and Adel and teams have been passing and repassing ever since although the river has been open above until February set in it has been quite ~~xx~~ cold for a few days but the wind got back in the south last night and is there yet. The weather is moderating .
To Strother Brumfield. Yours truly, John Sylvester.

Well Louisa the girls dont seem inclined to tell who their beaus is and I have not Maria says she has none Oh yes Louisa with all my heart you may have my coat come and take it and dont forget to bring Strother along also them three big boys we would be glad to see you all out here tell Strother if you wont fetch him he must fetch you &c &c .

Yours as ever, Old Johnny, Ha, Ha,Ha.

50. (Notice to newspaper , apparently)

Sept 12th - 1859

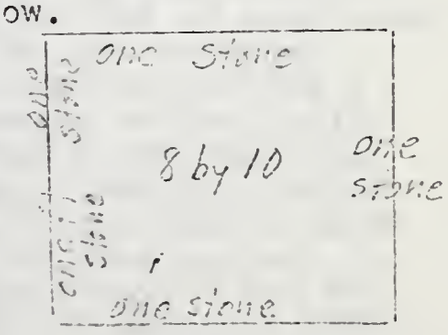
B.F. Diggs Esq., Pleas announce the Marriage By Jas Nichols Esq on the 10th inst.
. J. Jarrett Ruth A. Olaen
at the residence of S. Brumfield
all of Washington Township.

May the happy pair be loved and respected by all those around them,wherever thie lot may be cast. May their life be long and happy one their death peaceful and heaven their home.

per S. Brumfield
(This girl lived at the S Brumfield home,was raised there)

51.

Albany (Ill) January the 26th 1860
Mr S. Brumfield
Sir I expect you have returned from your St Io trip and so believing I thought I would write you a few lines. We are all well at present Mary is preparing some fish for dinner I guess I will be very greatful as I have a great appetite It snowed nine inches deep last night and is very warm today provisions are scarce here at this time and the reason is because of the poor Corn Crop which was killed by the frost early in the fall which made the pork crop light and the Farmers having run in dept and have been obliged to sell every thing that they could get cash for Elizabeth Ann 5 feet six inches high or 6 ft. 5 inches I dont know which Ann Eliza is high as Sarah Jane and both less than their mother Oh these fish how they smell Ann Eliza says if Doc does not write to her she will throw a club at him She wrote him a letter 3 months since Hi is standing here and looks like would say something and here it is He says he would like to see them cousins he is very stout and hearty and Clifton is also he can read in the second reader add does at school, Well I eat them fish and they were very good and now I must be going to court Ja n 29th came home from court last evening Saw one man fined $100 for maliciously shooting a neighbors colt and killing the same whole bill $150.-- and next comes the suit for damages $150
$150
$300 was in the new jail and it is a good structure I will give you the plan of one cell You will see by the diagram that five stones forms the walls of a cell there are one for the floor one for the ceiling which makes it very secure. Boarding costs ~~xxx~~ $1.00 per day. I must go to the fish market just now. well I come back with a heavy hand Hi says he is coming to your house when the old cars come on her track he is bothering me all the time I am writing go away Hi. Louis Mary says she is not so old and you might think she hopes to live South of here many years yet and she is only about old enough to begin to have pleasure in this world(she lived to be 94-Ed) and I expect to travel over California Oregon and New Mexico She has an extensive mind and not



51 Cont.

the worst either Many people have just taken the worst colds I ever saw and we are among the number I am at work at 18 pairs of blinds at the amount of 40 dollars and then I shall ~~getxa~~ go at 1000 lites of 8 by 10(6cts) and 9 by 14(8 cts) and by the time I get them done spring will be open The next time I will write more if I can think of it

J. B. Mills

52.

Tues Morning Oct 23/'60

Dear Uncle and Aunt

It is with the greatest pleasure that I sit down to try to compose my mind enough to write to you I have been thinking about writing a few lines for some time and slipping it into their letters when they write if it was only to send my love to all our relatives and friends But I have been going to school our school is out now and if I do not write a few lines occasionally you will think there is no such being in existence as I . When I come to reflect upon it I begin to think it is about time for me to speak , read or write as it is almost four months since. The Tornado I was very badly frightened at the time but after it was over I had to laugh at some of the funny expressions made by the people Well I guess I have wrote enough for today I am going out to help Clif fly his kite and by the time you have read this(if you havent thrown it away before you get this far) I will add a few lines more Wednesday morning Frigity Frifity fum I wish I had some one to write for me and I would rather go to school But O dear we are only going to have 6 months school in a year perhaps I will take a walk over to your house next week wont you let me stay with you provided I will be good girl and help Aunt to take care of them little Brumfields Ha ha Uncle you need not be bragging about your apples and cider We have apples and cider once a year but we don't envy you your bushels of apples and barrels of cider for we have fresh fish every day & have such good squashes we eat squashes until the yellow shows through our skins Glorious Country this Oh yes we have ~~ten~~ 10 bushels of turnips 25 bushels of potatoes 1 barrel of pickels sour kraut ditto we have pickled tomatoes a gallon or two of catsup (we live on vegetables mostly out here) and 1 barrel of apples They are little sour crab apples though Sallie finished a dress this morning for the bankers daughter of Lyons It was a splendid dress cost $8 & it was a party dress for the girl she is but 7 years old Sallie is following the dress making trade now Sometimes she makes a great deal and other times it is dull and then she does not make much She is sewing for the merchants wives in Lyons she has become a great favorite in the (world) their homes Tell John Smith to write to me and let me know how the uses him Tell him I have not forgotten him and can just recolect his good humored face and do tell Rainers to write us a letter a mile long and send it out to succor state to the little town of Albany Well I must get up (get) and dinner as Sarah declares she is starving I know dear Aunt I am writing a long dry letter I tried to get something to spice it with but I have such a sober dry old head that I have ransacked-looked on all the shelves in my noggin but found nothing but quietness and sobriety(do you not pity your poor niece) Tell Martha Jane Aunt Lib and Aunt Sarah to write I wish I was in old soccum for but a day I would stir you all to a sense of duty And dear old grandmother I wish I could

be with her for a while I would tell her things I cannot write I would tell her some of my strang adventures

So no more at present,
From your affectionate niece
Elida.

(Note: Elida Mills dt of Jacob and Mary (Brumfield) Mills)

53.

Tuesday Morning Oct 23 / 60.

Dear Uncle Strother We received yours of Sept 11-14 Tuesday morning I cannot express our joy at hearing from you Mother surmised something was wrong some of you sick for she had such fearful dreams Mother is getting to be somewhat of an old Granny she says she believes it is simply this that makes her feel so old her girls are growing to be such stylish good looking ladies Lib and I was up to the Morrison Fair in Sept. & Elida stayed at home & then we had an opportunity to go over the River to Camanchee Fair and Elida went with us Lib is such a neat tall noble looking girl she attracts attention wherever she goes. Now Uncle Strother if Lib was your neice I would not be bragging ~~xxxxxxxx~~ at this rate I just want to notify you of the facts that you have one of the hansomnest nieces in Lib & one of the sweetest and cutest little sunburnt trickplayer in Elida imagineable out west . Now why cannot you yoke up your oxen! O excuse me harness up your horses and buggy & just make a trip out to the succor State and visit those! O well it dont make any difference Jo and Mary that is just as well. We are happy to hear you enjoyed your visit to Ohio & arrived home safe at the end. I suppose you would like to hear something more about the Tornado for Father did not say much about it. I will just give you a short sketch of some curious ~~xxxx~~ freaks. A Mr Feases daughter after the storm had subsided & excitement was over she thought she would take a peep in her chamber in the second story of the house when to her great astonishment there lay a pig strung across her bed with the window smashed in. In the morning I thought I would go down in town & see what was going on When I was down opposite one of our fine merchants dwellin his daughter came r unning out crying my new little dress is all tore to ribbons and some one found it up on the hill and I never wore it yet, . I comforted her by telling her she ought to be thankful she escaped with her life & passed on a short distance when I met a Mrs Love one of the greatest talkers in town and asked her what was the matter Lawsme said she matter enough that old speckled hen that layed an egg every day this spring has her back broke and did not have any hopes of recovery; passed a short distance more and met a Mr. Olds just about (such) another man as Amos Smith and he looked as sour and mad as could be: why Mr Olds what is the (matter) said I; just go down to look at my current bushes if you want to know said he there is not a current on them every one blowed off; O well I shall tell you nothing more about the tornado Something about our own affairs will interest you more Father is ~~xxxxxx~~ working for $1.50 a day now at the druggist Lib is working there at $1.00 a week & she is going to stay there this winter she has been there 13 months I am staying at home at present. I work at the dress making trade. I must confess I have been rather unfortunate in my choice I thought perhaps he would grow to be more steady in time but no on the contrary He seemed to grow more dissapated He has gone to Pikes Peak now and I am at home by Fathers and Mothers request.

53 Cont.

I have not lived with him for one year and do not expect to for another year to come and then I will get my divorce. I did expect to come and visit you this fall but there has been a draw back.

Ever yours , Sarah.

(In the margin) Uncle you must write and answer this as soon as you get it will you please. I must write some to Aunt and Grandmother.

54. Rochester Ind. June 27 - 1860.

Dear Brother

I received a power of attorney from you with no instruction as to what to do with it I wish you would write to me as soon as you receive this and inform me who this David Brumfield is and all about it. and how much of an estate there is. I see from the power of attorney that there has been only Jesse Brumfield that has signed when the paper shows that Sarah P. Holcroft appeared before the Clerk and acknowledged the sign-ing on a sealing of the Power of Attorney but she has not signed it. You will please answer and give all the information in regard to it.

Yours respectfully, Hiram H Brumfield,

Strother Brumfield.

55. STATE of Indiana
Randolph Co. /SS

I Henry Neff, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of the County, certify that Strother Brumfield of said County has been appointed gaurdian of the person and property of Stanton Brumfield and Martha Brumfield, minor heirs of Jesse Brumfield, late of said County deceased and has qualified as such.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Court the 18th day of Dec. 1860

HENRY H. NEFF, Clerk.

56. Albany (Ill) Dec. 9th 1860.

Yours of some date came to hand in time and we were very glad to hear that you were reasonable well the case is the same with us at at present Old Abe is elected President it is snowing very fast and is the seventh snow that fell this winter the river closed on the 1st of this Inst ice thin whether very moderate for winter corn plenty not half gathered yet 20 cts per bushel none for sale Stock very fat $ 5.00 - $6.00 per cwt Banks had rabbits plenty and very fat Chickery (?) scarce Groceries very high We have about 2 barrels of pork so fat that Mary can hardly cook and cannot eat and the sight of it makes her shake her head She has 12 galons of lard made of the best corn crop I ever saw The potato crop was very large worth 15cts pr bushel or one half for digging In refered to that note I think you had better send it here xxx to some justice of the Peace and sue it for I will not allow you to settle it the way you describe Perhaps you do not know but that

56 Cont.
it might be fradulently obtained and if you should pressure to settle and not give me a chance to defend the same in law you would do me an injustice and assume too much responsibility and if it has been discharged you certainly do not wish to collect the same again and I would not again want to have to discharge it for 4 times the amount when you write again express or explain what you mean by saying you will have to take the amount out of my share of the estate. I want you to understand that I have paid that note double and I have a cash charge against the same ---- farther it is an impossibility to make a settlement in that as I will never concede to any such terms.
Next Sarah Janes case She and her and her hiers went to Geo Buck and he commenced his insignificance and triflingness and she supported them as long as she thought fit Came shame Some of his crimes are to indecent to pencil and the having 3 mistresses did not agree very well with her feelings -----

Sarah Jane tore this very much.
J.B. Mills
Feb 15th 1861 (same letter No 56)
It snowed another foot last night and still snowing hard, on Mary's young fifty dollar cow and calf. These gals of ours are well pleased when there is to be a dance they all go and O gosh - a - mighty says Lib the next day what is the matter of my legs.

57. Albany Feb 14th 1861
Mr S. Brumfield
Sir in complyance with your request I am again writing I wrote a letter to send to you Dec.7th but did not mail it I think I will send it with this lot of matter at the time I wrote ink was froze and I penciled it We are all reasonable or very well or in extremely good health at present and such has been our condition since you heard from us the winter has been very mild with about three feet of snow and if we were in Socham I should expect to be in mud half so deep for the next 6 months but it is a happy thing for us that we are here I am not very fleshy at present I only weigh 160 pounds but am gaining very fast think I shall soon be a man if I keep on a little while You wanted me to write about everything it is a hard mater well An Eliza and Martha Jane are of the same cholor ? Same Abolition Mary is in very good health weighing 90 pounds Clifton is as stout(as a buck and Hiram is much stouter and as handsome as a picture and fat as ahog with cheeks as red as rosies and his eyes flashes fire and Sparkling as gems Elizabeth Ann is as tall as a rail and that is my height I have been talking about farming some as when I stop the mill stops and if we plant our living will grow in the knight and rainy days and if I should the terms are these of 100 acres stocked with 30 hogs 10 cows and a team sufficient to perform all the work chickens & c for one half of the grain and increase of the stock and shall not take it for less than three years We have recd a power of attorney to you to receive and receipt to Wm Brumfield for certain moneys due your fathers estate Mary claims to sign the instrument with these conditions that the monies so received shall be to her own use to do with as she pleases so far as the portion of it that she may inherit I also sign it Hiram has not sign it as you will see I suppose Harper told him not to as the objection is in his hand write William and Elizabeth Clenny both sign it as you will see.

57 - Cont.

The corn crop is not more than half gathered yet at Como they burn it in the place of wood and coal and claim that it is cheaper No more at present but I remain

J.B Mills to Strother Brumfield.

xxx (Last page) You have got ahead of me with your breast emblem but there is not the same opportunity here that there is there as the expenses are double here what they are there and no organization at this place(Albany) the nearest is at Fulton City we are now waiting your brother Mr Dean S Efner to take our acknowledgements on that Power of Attorney Notary Public and Attorney at Law A thought just occured to my mind that you send that note to him and he and I will settle the same according to justice on the part of the note and amount

Yours truly JBM.

58. Albany April 16th 1861

Strother I have written to Williamson and have been waiting for an answer before I wrote you your letter came to hand in three days and I ought to have had an answer and you also before this time we are all in reasonable health at xxx presnt The weather hasbeen the most backward this spring since we have been here The roads are so bad at present that it is impossible to get out of this place with more than an empty waggon The farmers have just commenced sowing wheat generallly done in March Lid e was married to Willard Cutler of Clinton Iowa on the 26th of March and lives there We have not saw Lib for about three months rather a long visit We shall start for the west as soon as possible that is as soon as we can get ready and the roads will permit and that appears to be the best I can do at present I do wish we was started at this time The times here is very hard here The wheat crop here has failed the two last seasons and the corn last season which leaves the money rather low Produce the opposite and work scarce I have a job at $2.50 pr day and board so long as I shall stay here Flour is seven dollars per hundred pounds Pork 12½ Coffee 33 1/3 sugar 12½ to 20 Beef none-to poor to kill I never saw here so many poor cattle since we come here The corn is so poor that it will hardly keep Stock in good order and scarce new $5 cts old $1.00 Wheat $2.25 I must leave in a few minutes to my work Inhaste yours &c

J.B. Mills

Well Uncle Aunt and cousins since father was writing I thought I would write you a few lines . I am well and doing well Lide has done well and Lib is doing wellser(?) and Mother would do the same if she could only get started for Iowa she says write soon for she wants to hear from you before they start but this is something I do no like to say much about since I told you ~~since I told you~~ such a big story about them starting the next week but I have been trying to switch them on the track for said plaee ever since but have failed in my endeavours so I shall get some person more experienced in that line to do the switching for me I shall remain in Albany this summer After that I do not know where I shall go I have lots of nice dresses to make I will write to aunt some day and send her a piece of Lide's wedding dressand some of my new dresses also . Well I am in a hurry so will close for this time SARAH

Stanton Judkins

Elvin Stanton

Richard Stanton

3 Carthers

R. A

R Ann.

Albany May 8th 1861

Well Uncle Strother

We did not know but that you would be glad to hear from us and wish such an impression We are all well with the exceptionof Mother. She has been sick for the past week with none but Clifton and Hiram home with her for I am teaching school about three miles back of Albany and do not get home only on Saturday Today Mother is very unwell and low spirited She got a letter last Wednesday from Father he stated that you had received the draft and if Mother still in tight circumstances to send and see if she could get some. It would be very acceptable to her at present if you would send it. We are looking for Aunt Lib. I hope she wont disappoint us.

Mother has received $ 10.00 from father during the past yemar. Every letter he says " no pay yet" You may judge for yourself whether she is in need of it or not. She wants to know right away about it. (M.P. Mills probably in army)

I for myself feel very independent think I can take care of myself I intend to save all my school money I can so I can go to school next summer again for I must go and besides this pen(x) is very contrary ~~xxxxxxx~~ sometimes making a mark but more often making none. I would like to see my dear old grandmother . I hope they are well. Mother says she sends her love to all inquiring relatives and friends but feels that none inquire for her.

Our love to you all

Lide

If you send the money please forward it to Fulton to the express office.

59. Albany Feb 12 1861

Dear Uncle:

I will condescend to write again although I think it is condescension on my part but to speak plain about it I think you are treating me shameful It is just 8 weeks ago today since I wrote last What do you think about it my most agust uncle ? Well I will try not to make you feel any worse about it than you ought to, but I do hope that in future you will be more exact. It does seem to me sometimes that I cannot live another year without seeing some of you. I dream almost every night of seeing some of you folks and traversing over the never to be forgotten resorts I have not been home to stay any length of time this winter I first came home last sunday from Lyons I had been visiting one of my schoolmates who is attending the Lyons Female Colege I was there three weeks and while there I had my picture taken to send to my dear old grandmother. I do not know that she can see it but the rest of you can see it & it is a very natural picture a little deformity in the fingers caused by turning it under . I am coming out there just as soon as I have an opportunity if any of you comes out here this spring or summer , & father talks of coming in there in the fall and then I will come home with him. Father is talking of taking a farm for three years and if he does we will live seven miles from Albany. Everything is furnished of the farm and he gets half of everything he raises cows and hogs and chickens Father weighs one hundred and sixty three We are all well Mother has had work all winter and I have had all the embroidery and dressmaking I can do at 25 cts a day I have earned eighteen dollars since last November, hard cash ~~Dont you think that~~

59 Cont.
Dont you think that is doing very well for me. Hiram is the handsomest rosy cheeked little boy you ever seen . He is spelling in three letter Uncle without joking he is called the handsomest boy in the town of Albany I wish I could see some of my little cousins and give them some of my good hearty kipers Aunt louisa I have almost forgotten how you look but I hope it wont be long before I will see you My love for all inquiring friends except a good share for yourself. Sarah.

Lib and I received a Valentine today. Here is a piece of Ann Eliza's dress.

60. Iowa to wit | In the Polk Co Court
Polk County | June term 1862.

Strother Brumfield Executor of the last Will and testament of Jesse Brumfield --- late of the County of Randolph, State of Indiana would show to the Court that Jesse Brumfield decsd died at the County of Randolph and State of Indiana onor about the --- day of August A.D . 1855 testate, the owner in fee simple of the following real estate lying and being in the County of Dallas and State of Iowa and described as follows. The South west quarter of the south west quarter and the North west quarter of the south west quarter of Section 1 Township (81) Range (28) containing eighty acres. and also the southeast quarter and the east half of the southwest quarter of section(2), town and range aforsaid containing two hundred and forty acres all of the above named parcels of land containing three hundred and twenty acres the said deceased left as his heirs at law the following named persons; Sarah Brumfield the widow of said decsd Strother Brumfield Mary Mills (and Joseph Mills her husband) Hiram Brumfield Sarah P. Holcroft(and James K. Holcroft her husband) Elizabeth Clenney(and William Clenney her husband) Jesse Brumfield Stanton J Brumfield and Martha Jane Brumfield who are children of the said decsd. the Martha Jane being a minor under the age of 21 years. the others severally heirs being more than twenty one years of age. The said executor would show to the court that in and of the last will and testament of the said Jesse Brumfield decsd. it was among other things directed as follows: " and I further bequeath to my said wife the sum of five hundred dollars said amount to be dreived from the sale of certain lands now belonging to me in Polk and Dallas Counties in the State of Iowa, after my debts are paid. I further direct my executor herein appointed to apply the first money obtained from the sale of the State of Iowa after the sum of five hundred dollars is paid to my said wife or a sufficient sum thereof to enter one hundred and twenty acres each for the two following heirs viz. Stanton J Brumfield and Martha Jane Brumfield. I hereby direct that the balance of the money dreived from the sale of said land in the State of Iowa after the payment of the above mentioned items be put out at interest until all the amount is paid up.

For the purpose therefore of enabling your petitioner to carry out the provisions of the said will of the said Jesse Brumfield, decs. will your Honor grant him an order directing the appraisment and sale of the above described Real Estate either at Public or Private sale that the same may be --- in his hands for the payment of the debts and legacies set out in the will.

Strother Brumfield.

60 Cont.

The above named Strother Brumfield Makes Affirmation that the matters and things set out in this petition are true in substance and matter of fact.

Affirmed and subscribed before me April 8th 1862
Witness my hand and Notarial Seal .
George W. Monks Notary Public.

The undersigned widow, adult heirs and Gaurdian of minor heirs of said Jesse Brumfield do give our assent to the sale of the above described real estate for the purposes set forth in the said petition.

------- Heir	Sarah	her x Mark	Brumfield	Widow
------- Heir				
Strother Brumfield Gaurdian		Jesse Brumfield		heir
Martha Jane Brumfield			--------	heir
			Heir-p----	
		Sarah P. Holcroft --- heir.		

61.

Hennepin, Putnam Co Ill.
May 8th -1862

Received of William T Brumfield of Lancaster Ohio, Administrator of the estate of David Brumfield Decsd Sixty Eight dollars and Ninety four cents (68.94) in full of all our claims and demands against the said estate, as four of the heirs at law of Thomas Brumfield, deceased.

In witness whereof we havehereunto set our hands xxx the day of the year at the place aforesaid . In the presence of Charles S. Forsyth

JohnT Brumfield
Charles T Brumfield
Emaru(?) G Brumfield
Mary E Noyes
M.G. Noyes
By their attorney in fact,
JohnT. Brumfield

(These are probably children of Thomas Brumfield, s.of David, now deceased. RCP)

62. Lancaster Jan. 28th 1862.

Mr Strauder Brumfield, Dear Sir.
We received your letter in due time. we are all well at this time and hope that these lines will find you and family all well your friends are all well Wm Brumfield wrote to Mr Means some time ago but no answer We want you to go down to Centerville and try and find out how business does stand We want to learn how it was decided in court or whether it is in court yet We think Means is a little slack in giving information We want you to get all the information you can and write to us as soon as posable. A.(ndrew) Hunter -- S Brumfield

Parch MTS

62a.

Sept 11t. 1862.
Lexington (ky ?)

Mary Jane Brumfield,
Dear Companion I will try to write you another letter for I know you want to hear as soon aspossible I am well at present and hope you are too. we got back last night froma long march we started day before yesterday evening to richmond to reinforce the place and when we got within 13 miles of there we had to come back the rebels being to strong for us when we started to retreat they fired in our rear but did us no harm we were drawn up inline of battle and loaded our guns throwed away our blankets and part of them their coats Britinham throwed away his coat and rolled up his sleaves but we did not get to fight any it was very hot yesterday in the forenoon in the afternoonit rained very hard and give us a good wetting it is 28 or 29 miles from here to Richmond we went to within 12½ miles of richmond Some of the Ind regiments were dredfully cut to pieces in the fight they say we may have fighting here this week yet but I cannot tell any more about it nere than I could at home we cant hold this place without heavy reinforcement if the rebels are a mind to take it I have not received any letter from you yet and I begin to feel anxious about you this is the third letter that I have wrote to you Well I believe I cannot think of any thing else just now I want you to remember me and dont forget to pray for me that I may get home once more to enjoy peace and the pleasureof living with you your husband and lover

S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

(Note: this letter on stationery with the battle of Pittsburg Landing pictured at the top. The place was probably Lexington Va)

62b.

Adel Iowa Dec. 22 1862.

S. Brumfield Esq
Winchester Ind Dear Sir I take this occasion to inform you of the amount of taxes on your land and those belonging to the estate of Jesse Brumfield for the year 1862.

On your land for 1862	$ 9 07
Federal or war tax for 1861	2 11
On the lands of the estate for 1862	6 80
Federal or war tax for 1861	1 79
	19 77
Fees 50 cts per recpt	1 00
	$ 20 77

Yours truly,
J. Perkins

62 Cont. Tues Morning Jan 28th.

As Father has not filled the paper I will improve the opportunity to write as I am staying home a few days myself and little boyss are well at this time Abraham Hedges was buried yesterday He leaves a second wife and several small children

There have been a great many deathis in and around Lancaster this winter. There is part of a regiment of soldiers encamped at Lancaster The measles broke out in camp and spread ovet town and country in every direction regardless of age one of the soldiers was buried yesterday died of lung fever last monday there was a man living in this neighborhood died from the kick of a horse and today his oldest daughter is (dead:) the sun is shining with the warmth of a spring morning we have had very little snow this winter here Ill close by sending my best wishes to yourself and lady Hoping when convenient you will reply

Melinda Johnson.

63. December 19th - 63.
Nashville Tenn.

Mary J. Brumfield,
Dear Wife I received your letter that you wrote the 12th Jan -- and was very glad to ~~xxxxx~~ hear that you were all well I am at present except a bad cold I hope when this comes to hand ~~yu~~ it will find you all well and laughing Our company is on Brigade gaurd today so I have plenty of time to write We have to stand 2 hours and rest four this morning we got up in line of battle before daylight and stood till sunup. I dont know whether they are looking for the rebels to attack us or whether they just do it to put on style in your next letter tell me whether you got a letter I sent to you with a lock of hair in it. you may direct your letters to Nashville after this they will be apt to come quicker Dec 20th is a pleasant morning it was pretty cold and frosty last night to stand gaurd without a fire we have had nice pleasant weather here for some time Austin Steel came back to the regiment day before yesterday from Louisville he is well as common David Houser is not very well yet the rest from there are well what few are with the regt. I believe I have nearly run out of anything to write since we have quit marching I saw John Hilderbrand the other day he looks fat and hearty he appears to enjoy soldering pretty well and says he thinks the war will last three years yet we have not drawn any money yet but still live in hopes that we soon will I had a great deal rather be home doing something than here doing nothing for it appears that we are to be killed by marching and standing gaurd in the rain and night instead of fighting if any of you want to send any boxes of eatables but you will have to run considerable risk one boy in our tent got a box weighing 30 pounds (express cost a dollar) I shant advise you to send anything for me might have to march away from here before it would get here.

No more good bye Dear,

S(tanton) J. Brumfield

See 44a

Lancaster Jany 17 1862.

Mr Strother Brumfield Dear Sir Inform you that I have $28.66 for Grandfather's heirs it being stepmother's dower and this is the last of the estate you will let me know whether a draft on Cincinatta will answer as I would not Pick sending money by mail Write soon and I will forward the draft
We are all in our usual health except Manervy she has been worse this winter give my respects to your Mother and the rest of the friends I shal indorse a receipt with the draft for you to sign and mail back to me Yours with respect

W.(Illiam) T.(allman) Brumfield

NB I recd my money from that Means I suppose you are aware that the money is Ready.

64. Jan. 30th 1863.

Dear Mother brother and Sisters I take my pen in hand to let you know about the death of Sarah P (Holcraft) She died night before last and was buried today and her funeral preached She was sick 15 days a greater part of the time she was not sensable the doctors said her diseas was congestion of the brane and typhoid feaver Mary was taken with typhoid fever the eavning before Sarah was and is not able to sit up yet the doctor says he thinks she will be able to get up with care it is past nine and I will conclude and male this at the Bend tomorrow Mary J. got a letter from Dock Since the battle/he was in the battle and came out without a Scratch and was well no more at present Elizabeth will write again Soon

Wm E Clenny To

S.(arah) & S.(trother) Brumfield

send Docs word fore I have wrote to them so often thatit would not be worth while for while for me to write

65. Sweet Farm Feb 13 1863

Dear Uncle.

We received your letter last evening bringing the sad intelligence of our dear beloved Aunt Sarahs death I cannot here relate to you the with pen and ink the surprise and feelings of the family when I read the name of the departed. Mother was very much shocked you cannot imagine her consternation at the loss of her dear departed sister . We are very glad to hear that she died so happy in the belief of the Lord. I hope that we all shall be prepared to meet our Savior as she was . There is considerable to be taken into consideration before we take take the first step toward that important question religion but I think Aunt Sarah was a truly good christian woman Waht will be done with her children now will Aunt Lib keep them both. Father wrote us that he had while at Memphis saw a woman that knew where Jim Holcraft was (Sarah's husband) he aaid he was at his brother Allen's in Iowa. Do you intend to let him know of Aunt's death. It is dreadful sickly here at present but mostly among children they are dying of in Morrison(only 5 miles distan) as many as five in a day with scarlet fever I have been quite sick for the past week I am scarcely able to sit up today it is the first I have been up for a week and Mother has been down sick on account of the tooth ache but is getting

65. Cont.

somewhat better now. We receive about two letter a week from Father since he enlisted he is well and appears to feel quite content with a soldiers life but it is very lonesome without him I can assure you but we have kind neighbors here; but not withstanding we would rather be among our relations . We would be better satisfied with our lot . Father said before he left if he should never return that Mother should go back there but she would rather stay here she likes the country better and thinks she could make a much better home here than there. The Taxes you spoke of so far have been attended to with promptness and Mother will endeavor to attend to them now or when she pays ours. We have to do the best we can as we have received no money from Father since he left Camp Douglas which was last Nov. And as for our land out in Iowa we have not heard since two years ago last June. I sent a letter and money to pay the taxes but have never heard that he got it any thing about it If you have I wish you would let me know. Mother wants to keep it and perhaps she will go out there some day when her boys grow up and her girls get married ~~fx~~ of(f) but I do not think that will be very soon. We are living at present on a farm owned by a war widow and intend to stay here till next fall. It is a very nice place we have two strawberry bed(s) containing one achre each but it is a great wats to market though it is not any farther than we had to go there in Indiana. The money you spoke of you can send in a letter to Morrison if you please. Well Uncle Strother as I have no more place to write and am getting somewhat tired I will close signing myself your affectionate niece

Sallie(Sarah)

66. April 20th 1863
On the Tennessee river.

Mary T. Brumfield,
Dear wife I take the present opportunity to write you a few lines I am well at present hoping that this may find you the same we are about at our journeys end by water we are a few miles below pitsburg landing we came down the cumberland river as far as palmyra and then got off and got on mules and went to stealing mules and horses from there to Fort Henry by way of fort Donalson we got several hundred mules and horses before we got to fort Henry we put them all on the boats and got on ourselves it was better than a circus show to see us galloping over the country nearly all on mules(a whole brigade) Some of the mules would get contrary and wouldnt go and then there would be fun and sometimes they would throw the rider or lay down with him very often in the middle of a creek Some of the boys would get mad and swear they would rather walk but I had rather ride if it is on a mule We are getting away down south in Dixie in the rear of old Bragg The State of Missippi is on the right of us and we will soon be in Alabama I expect we are coming down here to raise old Ned but I am afraid if we are not careful they will raise old Ned with us We havent got any ~~mi~~ mail since we left Nashville but dont look for any while we stay here We have most of our sick boys with us that we left back last winter. Dave Hauser is with us. George Mathes is at Galatin yet there is about twenty boats with us and 3 gun boats there is more troops than our brigade but I do not know how many We are having a very nice time while

66 Cont. (Civil War Letter)

we are on the boats. There is a great many refugees along the river waiting for our boats to return and take them on and some of them have made boats and started down the river we met a boat load of them day before yesterday well I must begin to think about closing my scribbling but still I must tell that I would like to see that red headed girl that you have but I am going farther away all the time the woods is perfectly (-------) and all nature looks gay but still I must think of home and all its pleasures but you know that it is a long lane that has no turn and 3 years may not seem half so long when they are at an end no more at present I dont know where to tell you to direct your letters to for we are a wandering band of guerrillas or whatever you are a mind to call us any way we are going to try to be equal to old Morgan if not more so.

Stanton J. Brumfield.

67. Tuesday May 19 th 1863.

Dear Cousin it is after a long silence that I endeavor to write a few lines in order to hear of your whereabouts and how your getting along in this world we are all well at this present time and do hope when this comes to hand it may find you enjoying the luxurys of life we have not got any corn planted yet Father has not got much help this spring and he cant hire a hand for hands are very scarce all gone to war I will tell you we got a letter from Uncle John Long(hr) ear he is in Missouri aunt Eliza has been sick for five years and she has suffered more than toung can tell yet she is still living and is lying flat on her back as helpless as an infant and never expects to be any better his son Oliver was in the army but was taken prisoner by the union army and is now at home his Father is a union man My brother John is in army he has been gone for Eight months him and two cousins they are in the 125th regt Ills Xxxx Volunteers Camp P they are down at Nashville Tenn about thirty miles from Murfreesboro I expect he is in the fight that is going on he was at the battle of Peryville that took place between old Buel and Bragg when you write tell us how times are there there better here some than they was corn is forth cents per bush potatoes are two dollars wheat over one dollar coffee forty cts per pound Tea 60 cts per lbs hogs 3 and 4 cts lbs gross that is all I believe tell us about the war times there and if there has been any draft there or not and if Stanton and Martha Jane is married or not or whether Stanton has gone to war or any of the rest of them tell Martha Jane I want her to write to me if she pleases I wrote her a good while ago but got no answer if you please what your post office address is and I would rite to Stanton if he would rite to me give me his address so I will bring this to a close by asking you to answer soon tell us about aunt and all the rest and your family also (No more) I still remain your affectionate cousin Eliza Fisher to Strother Brumfield.
write soon.

Albany May 29 1863

68.

Dear Uncle Strother

Having waited sometime for an answer to my last letter & daily meeting with the same disappointment we at length find ourselves becoming somewhat anxious concerning your health which you informed us when you last wrote was very poor I find myself seated with wrighting material today to ascertain the true cause of your long silence ; which I sometimes have allowed myself to think was nothing more nor less but simply neglect. If the cause be the former you are to be exceused of course; but what shall I say to the latter my say shall be nothing for you certainly could not be so cruel to neglect us in that manner & at this time of all others when a letter from the old home would help so much the long lonesome hours of Mother in Father's absence. We had a letter from him last Saturday He said he had received a letter from Uncle Stanton while at Lake Providence La. he was well at that time he also stated that they anticipated a battle at Vicksburg since then we learned that the 33rd has been in a battle; but father was not injured there was a number from this place wounded; but none killed . Waht do you think about the war. I think that this fall will bring it to a termination. That is the general belief out here. Then the conscript law will not have to be enforced which I think will save the expence of another war in our own states the copper heads are very bold here and some very bold talk also if said law is put into force . Elida is going to the Fulton Union school again this summer The principal said if she would go this term and next he would give her a certificate to teach three years or she would have taught this summer Lib is out to Morrison living with Mr. Bailies Cliff and Hiram are going to school Mother and your humble servant are keeping old Maids Hall We have a nice garden and everything in the vegetable line we can wish for and two milch cows and two calves & two; two year old heifers & had a nice pig too but he would not stay at home & we murdered him yesterday and salted him down to see if he would stay then; it has proved sucessful so far and I have been trying to learn to sew on a sewing machine. I do not know that I shall succeed as it is a very tedious undertaking. Mother is whitewashing the bedroom I must stop one moment to look at the little humming bird on the honey suckle under the window; he comes every day to suck the flowers. Hiram says he is his. he is one of the best boys you ever saw Cliff is to much like myself for me to have a word of praise for him . Hi went in the bedroom last evening at his usual bedtime & he has a great habit of talking after he goes to bed & as I was reading also I went to the door to tell him to be still it was quite dark in the room Hiram said I stop that noise immediately - the next thing was Sarah Jane Mills you God Danged old fool dont you know nothing I am saying my prayers Hi get(s) every naughty thing they do during the day at school at night when they say their prayers Cliff will say now Hi ask forgiviness for what you said or done today. Then Hiram will return the compliment by saying well you can too. Cliff will say I done nothing Then Hiram will to bring to his memory relate what he said or done whichever it may be. Notwithstanding they get along very agreeable; both are learing fast. The taxes on that land you wished us to attend to . It was not paid last year consequently it

68 Cont.

has been sold for taxes & cost & and all amount to $ 9.00 The Clerk informed us that a man in Sterling had paid the taxes this and last year also I will get another piece of paper.

(note the rest of this letter is missing. RCB)

Probably from Sarah Mills.

69. An article of agreement made and entered into between Joshua Price of the one hand and and Sarah Brumfield of the second part The said Joshua Price of the first part do agree to rent and take charge of the farm belonging to Sarah Brumfield of the second part known as the west½ of the ~~west~~ se. ¼ of S. 30 T 19 R 14 The said Joshua Price is to have posession from the 1st day of March 1864 to the 1st day of March 1865. also to have immediate posession of the house stable and lot also the field next to the house on the south side to put in wheat and to haul manure on the same is to give one third ofthe wheat in the bushel the same field south of the house is to be put in corn is to give one third in the bushel also the field that is north of the house that is in meadow to be mowed and her half to be put in the stack the lot known as the (----) to have for pasture by fencing on one side the said Joshua Price is to cut and split rails and fix up the fence thereof which the said Sarah Brumfield is to give one dollar per hundred for making and laying up the rails the resetting and laying up of the old rails to pay 25 cts per hund.

August 19 1863.

Signed Sarah Brumfield Her x Mark. Witness Strother Brumfield.

Joshua Price

70. buffalo grove Coon Co. Iowa March 20 1864.

Dear Sir As my husband is very busy sowing wheat he requests me to write you a line and tell you about your timber for it is impasaible to keep they people from taking timber they combine togeather to take all the timber they can before any boy settles on it and they say that Burgett cannot hinder them unless he has a power of attorney and licence which he has not there has been as much as three hundred trees took off your land this timber which is worth at least three hundred dollars and there is not much wood timber left on it and my advice would be for you to come and settle on it imedeately or sell it there is a man here that wants to buy it and I think you had better sell it cheap than not sell it at all for if there is much more timber taken off it it will not sell soon now if you want to sell it immediately and send your terms this man would like to have time to pay a part of it if it would suit you he wants a hundred and sixty acres and he will match they balance they timber is not destroyed George Burgett to Strother Brumfield write soon.

71. Richmond Ind .,
April 11th - 1866.

Strother Brumfield. Inclosed is a draft for three hundred eighty dollars and twelve cents on the bank of the Ohio Valley at Cincinatti The same amount named in your receipt, and inform me if its receipt by you I send it by Indianapolis and it will reach you by Wednesday at farthest Give my respects to all the family for their kind treatment.

Verry Respectfully yours,
Thomas Means

I make your residence on the back of the draft at Winchester but that will not make any difference, I always naming a place of residense.

72. June 19th 1864.

Mr S and L. Brumfield Dear brother and Sister I take my pen inhand to let your know that we are all well hoping this may find you the same we received yours of the 5th in due time add was glad to her that you was all well some 5 weeks ago we started on our visit to Ill. we was gone 2 weeks had a good visit we left Sarah Jane at her grandmothers. The crops looked well in Ill.when we were there farms in Ill rates from 15 to 40 dollars per acre, lumber from $15 to $ 45 M for fxxxxx pine that is all the kind that they have there or nearly so. Shingles from $ 4 to $ 5 M At that rate it would cost something to build there Lath $ 6 M. I will give you the price of lumber at South Bend Poplar green $15 to $18 M Dry and clear $20 to $25 M Shingles $2 Lath $ 3.75 M Oak $16 to $20 M It is verry dry her Six weeks tonight we had a hard rain but two sprinkles sufficient to lay the dust since Wheat looks about average corn small oats and grass very short. Well about Well about the Iowa land we are willing that Dock and Martha Jane shall have eighty acres each and then sell or divide the balance as you think best. If you sell give us a chance for a bid George & Ady are doing well Ady has a good home I thinnk If you think it best I will appoint a gaurdian for george & Ady Send the (A?) money by express to South Bend St Joseph County Fraternally we are doing well here a great many acessions for 12 months past. No more at present.

William Clenny to S. Brumfield.

72 Cont June 21st

I will finish William letter we are all well William is at his mill and I am very lonesome Malisa goes to school We went to see Dock when we went to Illinois we seen the prisners (prison camp in Chaicgo RCB) Mary Jane is with him yet. We went to see Mary Mills she did not no me. she looked as natcherl as ever I did not no but she would hug me to peaces it looked od to see such big girls lide is teaching school sarah Jane and lib are working out tell all that is dead that (---- ?) and mared (married) write soon

Elizabeth

72 Cont.

Cliff and Hi are going to school Janey Grandmother is a going to fetch her home in September and Mary Mills is coming to and we are all coming in there in a pile if nothing happens if nothing xxx hapens we rode on the boat one hundred and thirty miles it was nice it looks a little like rain. Martha Jane I want you to write me a letterif you hant forgot me

72 Cont.

I wrote to you last. Mother (and) i am coming to see you this fall on the cars for I could not stand to come in a wgon. write soon you get this and tell me how Fraters are .

Mother St La Ma Brumfield

73. June 25th 1864

Mr Strother Dear Cousin I take my pen inhand to inform you that we are all well at present Father and Mothers healths are very good and hoping that those few lines will find you all in good health injoying xxxxx good health it is very dry here there has not been any rain for some time to mount to any thing the weather bids fair for rain this evening but I am afraid we will be disappointed as all signs fail in dry weather I would like if it is not to much trouble to you to write and let me know what first quality of dry black walnut and chury boards is worth in Indiana wher you live (per Thousand) I would like to get one thousand feet of walnut and chury for cabonet work if it would not come to high I would want some one inch and some 3/4 inch boards let me know what good lumber is worth and what you would charge to put it on the cares what is the name and distance to your niest railroad station nothing more at present yours with respect.

Joseph Brumfield

write soon as convenient direct to Glennwood Mills Po Livingston Co Ill.

74. Camp Douglas Ill., June 28th 1864.

Strother Brumfield

Dear brother and sister and Mother I arrived safe at Chicago today at half past ten Dock and Mary Jane well but their little girl is not very well I got to Anderson town at five yesterday and went in a bus to the Hotell and at one I took the Chicago train I had but very little trouble getting here I did not get my supper at the Hotell and I did not get anything for my breakfast I eat dinner with Dock and Mary Jane today I like this place very well I believe I could stay here all the time it cost me six dollars from Anderson town to Chicago and aquarter for to ride on a bus to take me to the Street cars and five cents to ride to the gate when I got to the gate I asked for Sergent Brumfield I was invited in a room and some one went to hunt him but he had gone to shoot their guns off so I got in company with a Corpral and after a while we saw them coming in saw Docks back and knew him but he was to far gone to halt him so the Corporal went with me to his house and there I found them there Jane got dinner and I washed dishes Jane went to ironing and I to writing Chicago is the bigest town I ever saw but I can tell you that I dint(spend) much time looking at it for I was so anxious to see Dock and Jane and the baby the baby is real pretty it has eyes like Strother I had no such a idea as thing being so well fixed as they are nearly all the officers has their wifes and familys they have school here in the camp as it is cauled for my part I would caul it a town for you'll no idea how every thing is I dont know but that I shall stay a good while if you can do without me you know that Docks said that ~~Jane~~ Jane was going home she was going home to fetch her things and was going to fix a little better than they was Stanton says I can make a great deal more to stay here than I can working sewing or irnong Well Clinton

74 Cont.

and sippio Uncle Dock says the first man that gets (Stat ?) he will get the bullet out and send it to him well Mother you must not get out of heart nor work to hard nor think about me for I am in a better place than I ever was in I wish you was here to Strother sell that horse if you can I believe I have wrote all I can think of at present as I have not been any where yet C cant tell it all I am going to write to Jesses I know you miss me at home but you need not be on easy about me for I can ~~asshureexxx~~ asshure you that I am doing well I dont know when I will go maybe not for too weaks ~~xxx~~ Dock never got my letter yet I will quit Hoping to get a letter as soon as possible for I want to hear from Mother.

M.J.B. (Martha Jane Brumfield)

75.

75

Winchester, Randolph Co Ind.,
July 4 or 6th 1864.

Strother Brumfield
Dear Brother & sister & mother I started for Maryes last night and got to Fulton at daylight I went to the Hotell and there enquired for a hack they told me that the Hack did not run on that day so I went to the Livery Stable and there got a man to bring me to Albany(eight miles) only and he charged me three dollars I told him it was too much but he sad said they generally charged $4 if I had a knowed it would cost me that I would have walked it. Stanton went to the depot at Chicago to get me a through ticket for Fulton it cost four dollars and seventy five cts I got to Marys this morning before breakfast I have not saw every one of the girls yet Clifton just came in I think he looks like Joseph Hiram looks like brother they are to pretty little boys Mary knowed me in a minute I could not dare to fool her Mary has not got her money yet I told her you had sent it to Fulton She is going to see about it well the girls is coming Well Strother Lib will do for a bean pole she is nearly as tall as ---- ---- Lida is a peffect beauty her eyes is as black as ~~ce~~ cole and she has such a round head and face Sarah is a real good looking girl and is just like she always was. I think ~~Mg~~ Mary has real good children and seams to live in peace O Strother I am a little homesick and was more so before I came here I know you miss me at home It dont seam so long since I saw any of you I do wonder if little Inda(India) misses me Well I forgot to tell you that Stanton baby got some better before I started I would have come to Marys sooner but Stanton wanted me to stay on the fourth I cant tell nothing about fourth but I can tell you all when I come home Mary thinks I must stay all next weak Oh if I could just hear from home I would not feal so badly keep Mother in good heart if you can and kiss Inda for me and all the rest and tell Ella (Aunt Jane is coming home some time I will quit for this time so good bye Strother you must not grumble at this letter for the pen and ink is not worth anything .

From Jane Brumfield.

76. Camp Douglas, Chicago, Ill.
July 1864 (probably)

Strother Frumfield
Dear brother and sister and mother it is with pleasure that I seat myself to write to you but would much rather get a letter from you than to have to write one we are all well but Stantons baby it is sick but not half as bad a s it was when I first came I have not been anywhere since I came but with Stanton at dress parade and I went to the Douglas Park and saw where Stephen A Douglas is buried and saw where he lived or where his family lives now they are very strict here you cant go out unless you have a pass I went to the edge of the lake I got some shells to bring home with me I dont know when I will be home I entend to start for Marys a Tuesday I dont know whether Jane will go with me or not Sometimes she will and other times she will say she dont know whether she will go or not and I dont teash her to go though I would like for her to go with me but I had good luck getting here and I recon I will getting there I forgot to tell that when I got to the gate of Camp Douglas I asked the officer of the day for Sergent Frumfield he asked me what regiment he was in and what company but I was so excited I could not tell the reg or the company but I soon got over that and could tell the women makes lots of money but they have to work hard the Lautenents wife wanted to hire me to sew but I told her I did not come here to work I would start to Alabny next Monday but as it is the fourth of July and I dont want to start on that day Well I wonder how you are all getting along I dont go to sleep at night for thinking of home I know you mis me but when I say anything about being homesick they laugh at me Stanton wants me to go to Uncle George Fishers and wants me to go to Clennys but I shant go either place for when I go to Marys I know I will be glad enough to start home I want you not to neglect to write to me if I dont get a letter from you against I get back from Albany I will think you did not write to me I dont think I will write to you any more till . get to Albany and when I get back from Marys and stop at Stantons I want to see a letter from you and if I dont I shall be very nearly gone up keep Mother in good heart if you can how do you get along with that cow and have you sold my horse I see a lots of government horses here and cattle there is no end to them Jane and me and the Lautenants daughter got a pass and went to the City it is 9 miles to Lake St and that is the center of Chicago we went inthe street cars they run all the time and only charge 5 cts to ride three miles it is twon all the way from the gate to the senter or where we went we go right by the slaughter penns and the cattle that is there is a sight to see I saw a lots of ships and that was a sight for me to see Stanton thinks it would be best for me to go to Rockiland ? and take the bote I dont know how I will go yet I must get my travelers guide and look over it they give ever traveler a guide on the cars so you cant get wrong that is if you will read them I went to the prison to see the Rebels I tell you they are a hard hard looking set they have to work like everything the police has them to rake all the trash from around the doors and keep the camp clean everything has to be clean or the officer will report you and then you wold get put in the dungeon the man that lives next door to Stantons was found asleep on gaurd and was put in the dungeon for twenty days and had to have a chain and ball on his leg and live on hali

77. Cont.

rations and that of just bread and water his wife is nearly crazy about him she has three little children to take care of I dont know but that I have wrote a nough for this time so I will quit I still remain your sister

Martha J. Brumfield to Strother Brumfield
TO WRITE SOON.

78. (A fragment from a letter of Stanton Brumfield from Camp Douglas Chicago)

Corp Bishop's wife had went to see a sick woman one evening and left the children at home xxxx his daughter put them to bed and locked the doors and put the key under the door so her mother could get it she then read some in the Bible and knelt down by the fire to say her prayre when her dress caught fire and in trying to put it out she communicated the fire to the bed after that she got one of the children out of the bed before it burned very much her dress all burned off her she lived hours she couldnt open the door and it was a great while before any assistance was rendered they bursted the door with an ax the bed all burned up but the house was saved they live in town.

I expect you can tell me who is drafted in your next letter for I expect it will come off before then Our new church is nerely completed and it is equal to the church at Lakeville it is right close to our quarters and I think I shall tend Church a little better when it is finished

Well as it is about bed time I had better close maybe I'll think of something tomorrow I hope this will find you in good health and spirits

From your affectionate husband,
S.J. Brumfield

26 " Sunday evening finds me alright with nothing more to wright so good night

79. Camp Douglas Ill.,
April 22nd 1864.

Mr S. Brumfield
dear brother I received yours of the 19th yesterday I have no means of knowing what that Iowa land is worth and I will scarcely know what I am doing when I do bid on it all I know about it is what a soldier told meat Paris in Jone Mills Co. he said that land is on the raise and it is worth from $3 to $4 per acre I shall gage my bid a little by what he says land is worth I will give $ 3-3/4 per acre for 160 A and Martha Jane can have half of it if she wants it I do not know just how the land lays but I will take the middle part of it anyhow if it will just a handily divided that way if not I am not particular my health is good at present I hope this will find you all enjoying the same blessing Every thing is quiet here Gen Sickels was here yesterday he says that the war will be settled this year we hope that he tells the truth but our faith is weak no more at present keep me posted on what you are doing with the land I still remain your affectionate brother

DOCK.

80.

Camp Douglas Ill.,
Dec. 25th - 1864

Mr S. Brumfield
My dear brother I acknowledge the receipt of your letter which came to hand last Thursday and found me well I hope that this will find you and yours enjoying the same blessing

I havent heard from Jes for sometime I suppose he has forgotten me again Ill write him a letter some of these fine mornings that will wake him up I havent heard from Hiram for a long time I dont know why he dont write to me maybe he dont like soldiers We received a large installment of prisoners this last week from Hoods army they were in a bad condition not very well clothed some without shoes some of them were pretty badly frozen before they were assigned to their quarters about 2600 came in Friday and Saturday We look for 500 more which is all that we can take at present this will make our aggregate about 12 300 they have comfortable quarters and are well cloathed and fed there is no breaking through the fence now it has been made three thicknesses and nailed with wrought iron nails and clinched The prisoners that came in last dont think very much of General Hood and havent much faith in their Confederacy any more We had cold weather last week and plenty of snow the weather has moderated considerably since yesterday morning

No more at present

I still remain your affectionate Brother
S.J. Brumfield

81.

Camp Dougl as Ill,
April 16th 1864.

S. Brumfield dear brother I received your letter yesterday in which you wanted to know if you should sell or divide the land in Iowa We ll I have been studying ever since I got the letter and have come to the conclusion that it will suit me the best to have it divided for land I want and it will suit me there as well as any place that I can get it with the same means excuse a short letter for I just came off gaurd and it is near mail time

S.J. Brumfield.

82.

Rochester, Fulton Co Ind.,
June 26th 1864.

Now my dear brother i take my pen in hand to inform you that we are all well at this presant time and hoping when this coems to hand it will find you all well and further i must let you know that we had a deth in our family the next to the smallest Girl is Ded she had the scarlet feaver and then infermation took place in her head and she had to leave us Just like we all have to Go some Day before long and so turn over and Now i can tell you a little more about that land now to make the long thing short i will tell you all about it i waunt be hard on you if you will send me three hundred dollars i will hold no more claim on that land so if you think you can give that rite in your next letter and let me no all about it and that will give me a great deal of satisfaction to hear from you and then i will no all about it so i must bring my letter to a close for the present time

i will also let you know something about that money that you sent to Perue i went down and got and I thank you very

82. Cont.

much for it till you are better paid i could make use of Good deal more if i only had it money is plenty but it is not very plenty with me at the present time so i shall make a stop be Shure and write soon for i waunt to hear from all of you
So Good Bye

H.(iram) Brumfield to
Mr Strother Brumfield

83. Albany Ill., Jan 3rd 1865.

Uncle,Aunt and cousins
I take my pen inhand to drop you a few lines We are well and hope you are the same I have been home just a week today I stayed at Aunt Libs till after Christmas and then started for home & so here I am I wrote Aunt Lib a letter as soon as I got home I presume she has got it by this time Mother had letter from Father las week, the Rebs have been raising old Ned where father is, they had to call in the Militia from Rock Island put the dogs and in consequence no furloughs are granted & so I think if we see father this winter we will have to go down to Rock Island and I think we will as soon as it snows again which I think will be tonight Mother has the house full of sewing as usual Lide has gone to the Mississippi Lodge and this is the first time that I have laid aside my sewing this morning Lide is now on the River skating I am going in the morning Mother is fixed very comfortable she traded off our big stove and got a smaller one, she has one pig & one cow the other being in the stock field in the country but it is stitch, stitch, stitch from morning until night she has made 15 shimmie 7 pair of Men's pants, 5 small coats one big coat 5 long night dresses and 11 large shirts 5 dress skirts since Aunt Jane was at our house Mother does all the cutting and fitting I am going to Fulton in two weeks to stay the rest of the winter, I get $2.00 per week , there will be but 4 in family with me I have not seen Sarah yet she is in the country sewing & I presume she has not heard of my return or at least hope she has not for Mother and Lide have talked me blind if there is any such thing. Uncle Strother lide says you are a gay old pup I asked her for you what kind of a dog Grays was raising Aunt Louisa Mother gets both of my grandmother's pictures and looks first at one and then at the other. perhaps I had better explain myself on the subject of pictures I found Grandmother Brumfields picture among Aunt Lib's pictures & so asked her if I could take it home with me and get a picture taken from it and she said I could I intend to write to Uncle Dock and tell him Lide,Cliff,Hi & I went to the Contest New Years Night & enjoyed it very much and last night Mother Cliff & Hi went to church and & Lide and I went to our lodge We had a splendid paper read by one of our sister members & today they are hauling great big loads of wood across the River the Cases will be here by June sure. Cliff is as large as the Longanecker he has grawon very fast within five months Mother has sent the money to pay tax in Iowa She will get a deed in her own name.

83 Cont.

Father has not had any pay for 12 months and he says he dont think he will not get any more until his time is out if he dont it will be a big pile when ~~he xxxx~~ it does come if he does not get any more pay until his time is out it will amount to three hundred and sixteen dollars. Well Uncle I cant think of any more to write about I forgot to tell you I had no trouble in getting home only I had to stay in ~~Xxxx~~ Fulton two days before Dr Stone brought me home I had to go with him to see some of his patience before I could get started for home. Write soon my love to all.

Libbie. (Mills)

PS. Tell Aunt Jane to write.

84.

Camp Douglas Ill.,
Feb 20th 1865.

Mr Brumfield,
Dear Brother I just received yours and Martha Janes letter and I thought I had better answer it right away I wrote to the Postmaster of Adel Iowa some time ago and requested him to (send me) the address of Some responsible man in Buffalo Grove for I wished to correspond with some man there as I had some interest there and I received an answer from Alton which dont appear to be quite to the pointe and I am afraid that I am getting mixed into your affairs I will send you a copy of the answer for it was aimed for you as you can see

Fulton Io Feb 10 1865

Mr Stanton Brumfield,
Camp Douglas Ill.,
Dear Sir I received a line from you a short time ago in which you said you wished me to recommend some one here as agent for your land in Buffalo Grove I would respectfully recommend Johnathan Willis as a suitable man

Yours truly,
P.M. Alton Iowa

If you want to write to Jonathan Willis Direct to Alton Dallas C o Iowa

---

Neither did I say anything about land nor I dident give him my first name in full This is the reason I am afraid the answer was aimed for you I wrote to Jonathan Willis I wanted to know the condition the land is in and about matters generally out there for I think of moving there as soon as my time is out You shouldent be too sure about that name for it is set down as William C. but you can get the present though if you want to for I spose it was named after you any how.

500 prisoners have left here for exchange and 500 more leave today we have been transfering those that refuse to be exchanged to Barracks to themselves they number over ~~tkxxx~~ 3 000 so far about 40 were released this morning by order of the President there has been several hundred released this month We distributed about ~~xxx~~ 10 000 tracts 1 000 testaments and Some religious papers among them the other day it was a very plesant work they would almost snatch them out of our hands.

Well Scippio I think you are learning pretty fast from the looks of your writing I expect you will be a man yet before your Mother Martha Jane tells me though that Clint can beat you spelling I wouldnt stand that if I was in your place I would study awful hard but what I would beat him

(Stanton Brumfield) No signature.

85.

Boonesboro Iowa
July 21st / 65.

Mr S. Brumfield

Dear brother I arrived at this place the 19" inst We are in good health with the exception of myself I dont feel very well today because I took rather a long ride yesterday on horse back I was over our land I found things looking fully as well as I expected Levi Thornburg is living on the land and will continue to do so for all of me He has very nice crops growing did not get to see him he was over on Coon River I think the best thing you can do is to come here and straighten up affairs as soon as possible I would have rather have moved over there than to have staid here if the hous had been empty since I came back from there I have rented a house of two rooms rather for $ 10.00 per month and we are going to move in it today when you come here you can get a free ride to the Fremont House then you will be in sight of a large grist mill ahead of you and we live just across the street from that there is plenty of work to do here and plenty of carpenters to do it and a scarcity of lumber The cars only commenced running here last Monday wages is about the same as in Ind. I shall look for you by the first of next month Our goods have not come yet although we started them a week before we started I shall write again to the rest of the folks when I have a better chance.
I still remain your affectionate brother.

S(Tanton) J. Brumfield

86.

Sept 27th 1865
Boonsboro Iowa.

S. Brumfield dear brother we are in tolerable good health this evening Mary Jane has just got over a spell of soare (throat) I hope this will find you in good health I saw Ben Campbell this afternoon he came in the Shop to see me and to pump me I suppose he said he is going to Ind. So I thought I had best to write and tell you some things he said in the first part of our talk he said that you had made a bargain with Lee and he was ready to swear to it and that you had offered him $ 350 to rue the bargain. (Note Lee (or Levi) Thornburg was the man who had squatted on the land belonging to the Jesse Brumfield estate during the war) and at the last of our talk he said that if Joe and Lee had only been as shapp as himself they would have bound you up so they could have held you to it. he tried to force me to believe some things that he said but I told him that he oughtent expect me to beleive all he said and he was very much surprised at me he wanted to know why you didnt make Lee get off the place according to law and why dont you do something he said and I suppose from that they dont know that you have emplyed a lawyer to attend to him and I dont know what good a lawyer has done us yet I think he needs nudging up

I havent time to write any more tonight

S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

PS I wrote to the lawyer since Franklin and I came over to the Grove.

(Note: Franklin is Benjamin Franklin (said to be of the family of the well known Benjamin) who had married into the family-- see Genealogy. Stanton worked for him as a carpenter)

87.

Cousin Strother

the land you Spoke about lay 7 mile N.E. of Boonsboro and is good Prairie worth about five Dollars per acre.

Benjamin Franklin

Boonsboro Sept 28th 1865.

(Note Benj, Franklin m. Amanda Hunter first cousin to Strother and Stanton Brumfield)

88.

Boonsboro Iowa
Nov. 26 / 65

Strother Brumfield

Dear ~~xxxxx~~ brother We received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you We also got papers that you sent and might have got them if I had asked for them sooner if you send some more they will be very acceptable We are all well as common except bad colds I hope this will find you enjoying good health and propperity We have moved to our own lot we moved week before Last ~~we found it very~~ We found it very difficult to get feed for our cow so we sold her to Franklin and took it in furniture and a little more so when you come again you can have a bedstead to sleep on the weather is delightful and mechanics are making good use of it new house are springing up all over town like magic the probability is that the RR will go north of town and about ten miles north of Burgett Burgett says they are setting the grade stakes 10 miles north of him if they go north of town we can see the cars from our door and only a few blocks distant we live two blocks west and one block north of the Public Square the town was incorporated this fall and officers elected . according to the number of school children there is 2700 inhabitants in the two towns the furniture business is lively yet Franklin cant keep a stock on hand half the time he keeps Seven hands besides himself and partner and Turner he said he took in the but end of a hundred dollars every day last week he talks of starting a factory on the River Mr Burgett and wife were at our house Several days ago to dinner they couldnt tell us much news about the land he said he didnt think they were destroying the timber any more he says he told a young man that lives at Mackeys to keep a lookout for the timber and he Says he will be a good hand for the business if you or I were to employ him he lives in the house next to Marys land and he is no friend of Thornburgs Burgett thinks that Keller that lives east of Lee is in Co with him(Lee) I dident think of going over there any more untill I get a deed for it cost to6 much Burgett thinks the land will (bring) about $ 15 per A I dont remember of telling Nate Morris any thing that you spoke of Ben Campbell may have pumped some out of me some time or other but what or how much I dont know nor I dont care very much about it I dont suppose I ever told half as much as they say I told I am resting easy as I can I dont know whether I will ever get anything or not of Fathers estate I am going it on the safe side anyhow I intend to do without it if I dont get it and I dont say it is your fault or anybodys else No more at present write soon from your affectionatle brother

S(tanton) M. Brumfield.

89.

Dec. 1st 1865.
Adel Iowa

S. Brumfield Esq.
Winchester Ind.,

Dr Sir The appraisers (Mess. Burgett. Shiveley and Larkin /Thornburg) have appraised the three east eightys Viz W½ SW ¼ E ½ SE ¼ and W ½ SE 2 at $8 per acre and the west eighty Viz E½ SW¼ 2 at $12 per acre The appraisment doubtless will be confirmed by the County Court You can go ahead and sell and convey with all expedition Yours Respectfully

W.S.M. Abbott

90.

Albany Dec 10th 1865
Dear Brother and Sister

Yours of the 24th and 26th ultimo came to hand last Saturday and has remained unanswered becauseof my being away from homethe past week We are all (at) in reasonable health at present and feel a great bereavment the sudden departure from this life of Our Brother Hiram and Sympathy with his children .
Perhaps you would like to know somethig about me special I have earned $200.00 since I came home with my own hands and have lost 1½ pounds of flesh since you was here Provisions generally is at fabulous prices Choice beef steak 12 pr lb Fresh pork cut 18 cts Flour $4.00 to $6.00 per hundred Coffee .40 White sugar .25 Corn Potatoes & oats.25 The paper you sent came to hand the past week I find in it many names that are familiar Such as Best Way Monks ward Richardson & Martin etc It makes me feel as though I would like to be there. You said something about our coming to pay you a visit I do not see how we can come this winter but still think we will come Some time as Soon as we can I have heard that there is a Govt agent at Savanna giving a land warrant to all the 1862 Soldiers who has an honorable discharge If true I will get one of 160 Acres and try to locate it in Nebraska I have seen men from there that says near Denver is a very fine country that it is better than this Some have gone from here and more are goingin the Spring We have not heard from Iowa I cannot tell why Stanton does not write Perhaps he is too busy and has not time Mary says I must write Something for her Well here we go She looks much better than when you was here though she has had the more spell of (---- age) Since we have lived together which made her look very puny.
We thought that we would have some photographs taken we went to morrison left our negatives but Her Eyes was very bad and the artist sent me word and we have not had time to go back since I hope we will have one there soon I will close for the present Yours as ever

J(oseph) P & M(ary) Mills.

Please answer.

91.
Article of agreement Made and Entered into Between Sarah Brumfield of Randolph County and State of Indiana of the first part and Elihu Johnson of the County and State aforesaid of the second part

Witnesseth that Sarah Brumfield for and in Consideration of the Covenants hereafter mentioned has and doth hereby Rent the following described land to the said Johnson for the term of one year from the first day of March 1866 next ensuing on the following terms to wit one third of all the corn in the bushel one third of flax seed and oatsin the bushel and one third of the wheat in the bushel and one half of the hay in the stack Except in the Wood pasture and the said Sarah is to give the said

91. Cont.

Elihu privilege to pasture two head of horses on said pasture said land known as the west half of the south east quarter of Section 30 township 19 of R (4) East situate in Randolph CO Ind. and the said Elihu Johnson binds himself to take said farm and tend it in a good workmanlike manner and deliver one third as above mentioned to the said Sarah Brumfield and is to do such repairing as the said Sarah may wish don on said farm for which the said Sarah agrees to pay the Said Elihu the customary price for such work at the time said work is don and further she agrees to give him twenty five cents per hundred for resetting old fence and laying up old rails and one dollar fifty cents per hundred for making and laying up new rails and the said Elihu then agrees to haul out all manure on the said farm on the wheatland in the fall of 1866 provided he sows wheat on the said farm in witness whereof the parties hereunto set their hands and seals this 12 day of December 1865.

Sarah Her x Mark Brumfield

Elihu T. Johnson.

92. Winchester Ind box 177.

S. J. Brumfield -- Boonsboro Iowa.

Dear Brother

I notice in your last letter to Martha Jane(Came to hand yesterday) that you said nothing about the land being appraised. I expect that you have not heard that it is appraised. I got a letter last week from Abbott informing me that the land was appraised by Shirely Larkin Thornburg and George Burkett the three east eighties appraised at $8 per acre and the west 80 at $12 per acre Now you make choice of how much you want and I will make you a deed(?) to it at the appraisment . that is if the court comfirms it. Abbott thinks the court will confirm the appraisement You will be required to give one year notes with security or a mortgage on the land with interest . after the other is sold you can take your share out of that then the balance you will have to have You had better take the 160 acres at the 8 dollars I think it is cheap at that if we get no more than the appraisment your share the closest calculation I can make will be about four hundred if so it would be best for you to give a four hundred Dollar note for that to butt against against your share of the 560 Note you might give 12 or 18 months after date(I do not know which yet) or pay some down if you think best as you pleas about that but I am -- to sell the other (or a part) to get money to pay Abbott on the expence of course you no that your sum (560) will belong to the rest of the heirs and some of us could wait with you Martha Jane is unsettled yet about taking hers

We are all well Your brother

S(trother) Brumfield

93. Near Greenbank (Ind) January 23 1866.

Respected Friends:

after a long delay of time I have composed my mind to answer your kind letter According to your request you wished me to write and give you the particulars so I will try so to do libs property had to be praised and she have her set off or the debts would come on her and take what she had before she could have a chance to pay them there was one debt of 8 y laid in before the praisement I will give you a list of what she has 38 bushels of wheat 200 of corn six acres of wheat in the ground one cow one calf three shoats three fatning hogs two spring colts and her house hol furniture the colts Hiram had bought of Gibbs and had sold a cow and paid for one lib has sold one for $25 dollars the other one Gibbs took back lib is staying at paps the children is going to school lib is coming to our house next week to stay until after she is confined that will be some time next month this is all heart breaking but we must bear it with patience for god has said he will remember the widow and the orphan lib wans to have house put up in spring so she can have her childrento theirselves she wants to get a loon and learn to weave and keep her children with her they are all smart and can help her a great deal I dont know whether pap will (give) her any about building or not Gibb will do all he can she wanted to know if you got any money in the spring if she couldn have it to help rais the children it seemed as though hiram was warned of his death he told lib a few days before he took sick if he should die he didnt want her to seperate the little children while she could keep them togather it seemed to trouble him to think she had to be sick again she wants your advice she sends her love to you all and Mother Drumfield I believe I have told you all as well as I can as this leaves us all well hoping it may come safe to han finding you all enjoying the same blessing please write soon

Nancy A. Vandergrift
To
Strother Drumfield. and family

lib sais she would like to see you and have a long talk once more.

94. Albany Jan. 25th - 1866

Dear Brother:

Yours of the 11 th inst came to hand in due time and we were all in good health and the same at present except Lib S(h)e went to Caldova with a sleighing party and got some cobwebs in her throat and Brandy is so very high in price that we have not been able to raise the wind to get them out. Sarah is living at Lyons in very high and sumptous style So much so that I fear that she will disown us as her parents and perchance may lose her by adoption But we intend to get up a sumptous dinner and give her an invitation and also the Lady that she lives with The school Marm(Lide) is becoming somewhat critical Quisical and somewhat melancholly and having visited Sarah and returned thinks we live like the lower order of animals She found that we need a full set of silver Ware Piano and Malodian the amount of a Housefull of Linen Furniture such as Sofas Chairs Side boards a Secretary a Library a House to contain them and Situation for it Much Manners and a little pile of greenbacks to keep the Machinery in operation so you will know that we are very much independent if not independently poor. Supposing the latter clause to be true it is the reason that we cannot visit you as we

94. Cont.

thoug we flatter ourselves that we will Some time So Soon as we can raise the Wind to spare if not Sooner There is not much doing here this winter Correctly Speaking not anything but hauling wood from the Island The winter has been moderate thus far and we hope there will not be any very Severe cold weather for the Remainder of the Season I am getting the fever and Mary has it by Spells but is not the Spotted Fever but it is the moving kind I do not know how severe it may come on but I expect something severe enough to start us The Sleighing has been fine for two weeks past and Citizens here are having a fine time attending Sleighing parties Dances &c which occur every night They appear to be some weary of the fun
There are preparations making for Some improvement in the coming Season There are to be two large Brick Store houses to be commenced soon besides Some dwellings of less importance and likely more I have not done more than fifty dollars worth of work since November Lots are held as high as three hubdred ~~dolls~~ dollars and hard to get there is at least half of them that the Title is not good heirs property or sold for taxes or is held by married women

Feb 4th 1866

I thought you had this letter before this time Perhaps Mary thought if she kept it a short time I would send my brains So it is I guess you will think To Clinton Mary sends her love to Clinton for the Ring and hopes to see you some time When she looks at your picture her desires to see you is increased and how long it will be Mary

95. Adel Iowa Sept 1st 1866.

S(arah) L(ouise) Prumfield
Winchester Ind
Saturday 3 Oclk P.M. Dear Wife I arrived here a few moments ago on the stage coach eat my dinner and am now in George Perkins Office talked with the Judge a few minutes now writing to you while the Judge is busy with some other persons I was detained at Anderson 7 hours and at Chicago 13 hours then when I got within some 12 miles of Morrison . I was detained again some 10 or 12 hours and saw a worse smash up than we saw when you was ~~hurt~~ but not as many lives lost only one lost I got to Joseph's Thursday 1 oclk P M walked from Fulton to Joes they were well Joe came out here with me., we started about 1 oclk next morning Cliff went across the river with us and we landed above a slew and J and I had to wade the slew Cliff had started back . but however we got to Chamanch Station in good time I got off at (Hevaa d ?) ---- went to Des Moins by Stage the(n) on to Adel where I am ~~xxx~~ I am well as common hope these few lines may find you all well Judge Perkins Says Thornburg cannot do anything not time to write much more I am in good Spirrits about the matter I will or can tell next week more about it So if I have to stay vary long I will write again it has rained every day since I started
Remain your affectionate husband S.Prumfield
I will go up to John Sylvesters this evening

96. Albany Ill., Oct 10th 1866.

Dear Uncle and Aunt I thought I would pen you a line or two If I could have had the Albany Journal this morning I would give you all the information you would wish for the next six months to come The Carpenters are busy and the blacksmiths and the butchers and Busy Bodys too for there was two weddings in town and Libb was not either one of the brides Boo hoo how bad she feels and one of the bride grooms was ~~Lxkh~~ Lides old beau Mr Buck Father is out in the country at work he has work that will keep him busy for three weeks . we are getting ready to start for Iowa within a month I am going to work out two weeks longer and then I am coming hometo help pick up our duds I wish we could one and all pick up a bundle say that is all and then ~~wh~~ when we arrived at our destination we would find our house all furnished wouldnt we have a grand time moving there is no fuss in moveing Well where do you think I have been for the last fifteen minutes well sir mam I have been watching the deckhands carrying sacks of grain on the steam boat that has just landed as near as I can guess there must have been 2 000 bushels Mr Marcy said he could have loaded 10 cases last week but he could not get but four to load. (?)

Sunday Evening

And here I am trying to finish this letter that I commenced last week father came home last eve and informed us that it was his intentions if possible to start for Iowa within three weeks at the farthest. I shall be glad when we are there. Sarah and Mrs Mead are talking of starting of starting a Dress Makers shop in Poonsboro Sarah has all she can do here I cant think of any thing more to write that would interest you only that Sarah has got a beau and Lide had the colery three times in one day tell Aunt Jane that I am going to write her a long letter before long give my love to Grandma and kiss all the Children for me and did your cookies last untill you got home My love to all and Sally Smith in the bargin Good By

Lib.

PS You will hear from us again soon.

97. Poonsboro Iowa Oct 14th 1866.

Dear Brother we recd your letter about one week ago and was glad to hear that you were well and had arrives Safely at home we are all well as common and hope these few lines find you the Same well Strothe I have made the acquaintance of two more new cousins Since you were here They were Talman Brumfield and Mrs ~~Ke~~ Ketner his sister(Childrenof William Tallman Brumfield(bro to Jesse) and his second wife Rachel Peters.) Mary Jane Brumfield m. Eli Ketner) and his Sister they Come to See Franklins and of course they run on me they were at our house part of the time they went home last wednesday to Oakaloosa they came on the Cars to Desmoines and from there by stage well I quit working at the river yesterday and intend to work in the shop here where I am in hopes I can make a little more besides being close to home Burgetts were over one day last week but as I was not at home I didnt get to See them they eat dinner here they Said that Lee Thornburg told them that Somebody had cut a couple of good (trees) off of him and he intends to make them pay for them &c they have all been sick Joe has been very sick this is all that I have heard from there since you was here I havent heard from Joe since you and him left here Our County has gone republican 170 majority the Democrats have had a majority heretofore the Cars run nerely 100 miles west of this they lay nerely

97 Cont.
one mile per day So they will soon be to the Missouri river their stopping point we have had very nice weather for several weeks past while you had such heavy rains we had bad weather but not enough to raise the Wreck So much as to keep us from crossing on the Damn the river is very low at present tell Martha Jane that I would like to hear from her for she owes me a letter write soon

From your affectionate brother
S(Tanton) J Brumfield.

98. October 28th 66.

Dear Brother and Sister I take my pen in hand once more to write you a fiew lines we ar all well except Elizabeth She is getting some better so she can oversee the children and help them do their work a very rainy and disagreeable fall so far here. we have done full as well as we expected with our mill and lumber this summer we have 300 logs to saw yet that will take us 3 weeks we want to haul 100 yet this fall if it is favorable we can sell all the lumber that we can make South Bend is improveing very fast there has been about 300 houses put up there this year that will add 1500 inhabitants makeing it a city of 8 000 inhabitants property in the Bend has more than doubled in value in the last 2 yearswe expect another rail road to Run by the Bend they are to commence grading it nex spring the water power is allso to be inprove next summer and more mills and factorys built the prospect for building next season is bette than has bin this (year) we sell lumber at $20 per M delivered Gradmother Brock talks of coming back and buying a house and lot in the Bend yet this fall James Holcraft has bin here he stayed 4 days he says that he has bin in California all the time since he went away he said that he had $600 in gold with him I saw $100 (of)it he bought about $50 worth for the children when he left he said he intended to go where land was cheap and lay out his gold in land for the children(Note J. Holcraft was husband to Sarah Patience Brumfield-- the children are his own,being kept by Wm Clenny) he says that he has not drinked any or went in bad company for six years past he says he knows that he has done wrong and talks reasonable and makes many fair promises and assertions he seamed to be proud of his children and told them to be contented for they had a better home than he could give them we got a letter from Docks last male they wer well we have built a lodgers room in Lakeville this fall the plasters are at work at it now our room cost $700 it has to be furnished yet

Yours as ever Wm Clenny

To S(trother) Brumfield

Winchester Indiana, Randolph County
Washington Township.

99. Boonsboro Iowa Dec. 1 / 66.

Dear borhter we received your letter a few days ago and I have been waiting to see Jos come before I wrote but I have waited in vain so far we are all well as common and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing Some of Franklins children have the measles and Benjamin has to have them Amanda has been very sick she is about able to be up again and the measles are scattered all over town and I suppose they will visit us before long. Maranda Jackson stayed at our house a few nights ago he appeared to be very sorry that he didnt get to see you when you was here he said that he was afraid that you thought that he was taking sides with Lee Thornburg he believes lee to be the very kind of man he (lee) is he says that Lee has no idea that he can hold that land but he has heard them intimate that they intend to make all the trouble for you that they can and that they intend to have the case tried in a higher Court if they loose it in this one He says that Thornburg has given people over there to understand that he himself has served an injunction onthat timber and Maranda didnt know any better till I told him better I believe that you told me that you had an injunction served on the timber and I suppose that Lee Thornburg had nothing to do about it the matter If I am wrong tell me so Maranda lives opposite Buffalo Grove on Coon river
They have surveyed a rout for the Desmoines Valley RR between Coon River and Beaver Creek Our RR will be finished to the Missouri by New year Nawton has sold out to the other three of the furniture firm. I believe that I wrote to you that I am working in town again I have been making tables the most of the time I can and do make 2 tables per day but I dont quite average that week before last I averaged that many per day I wrote to Alf Holcroft the other day for him to send me them tools wood is $4 per cord butter 40 cts flour $5 Pork dressed 7 cts

No more at present write soon yours

S(tanton) j. Brumfield.

100 Boonsboro Iowa April 21/67.

Dear Brother & Sister
We received your letter one week ago and was rather disappointed to hear you are not coming out here we are well as common hoping that this will find you enjoying the same blessing I suppose I will not be at Adel at the time of the court although I would like to be I will give reasons in the next letter for not going I am a little afraid that everything will not go right there evenif I was there I suppose you ahve read that we have very high waters here and you may know believe it for it is the truth the water was within a few inches of being as high as it ever was known before you recollect the building we were at work at the river it had one story above us and only a little more than the comb stood above water the current was on this side of the river so the mill was in still water and consequently remains standing the coal banks are all submerged and irish shanties washed away but I have not come to the worst yet Several have been drowned and others nerely so among the drowned Eddie Franklin Amandas oldest boy Hascal Franklin two other men and Eddie went to the River last Tuesday to tend to saving some of their lumber two men came over with a scift to cross them over Hascal Franklin and Eddie got into cross first and

100 Cont. whenthey got in the swiftest part of the current which is on this side among the trees they were dashed against a tree and upset in the water but little warmer than ice water Eddie was in the forward end of the boat and was just out of reach of any trees he was a good swimmer but the current was so strong and running directly to the center of the river that it carried him right away from help Franklin saw him look back but happened to have good judgement enoug to not follow him leed sure death to both of them he sank in a few moments to rise no more Mr Hascal could not swim but paddled for lif this time and with ~~the~~ Franklins help got hold of a tree on the lower side where he could not hang on long on account of being so numb he washed off and ~~also~~ almost miracaulously caugh on some limbs a few rods below by this time boats were on hand and one of them got Hascal out in time to save his (life) while two others that came to the rescue were upset and their crew let to cling to trees only one boat left to save all but finally by good managemant and brave men they were all saved but Eddie Franklin was in 3½ hours but managed to crawl above he was nerely exhausted when rescued having been upset twice it was almost a mericle that no one was drowned Boonsboro was considerably excited over it and before they all got out several hundred people were collected on either side of the river Eddies body has not been found and probably never will be a man was drowned at the rail road bridge the bridge is safe the water is falling rapidly the rise was from meltin snow we have had no heavy rains we have some garden flour is $8 per hubdred.

No more but write soon

Yous &c S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

(Note:) (statement by India Brumfield)

Benjamin Franklin of Boonsboro was of the family of the original Benjamin of historical fame. Benjamin of Boonsboro had married ~~had married~~ (5-10-1848) ~~Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Amanda Hunter dt of Thomas Reece Hunter and Abagail Brumfield, who was a sister to Jesse Brumfield and an ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ aunt to Stanton Brumfield. Stanton Brumfield worked for Benj. Franklin in his furniture shop.

Eddie ~~Hunter~~ Franklin was drowned 4-16-1867. His body was found three weeks later and he is buried at Linwood cemetery at Boone Co Iowa.) RCP Eddie Franklins full name was ~~Xx~~ Charles Edmond, b. 7-25-1854, so he was not quite 13 years old when drowned)

101. Albany July 8th /6 7(or 4)

Dear Uncle

Thinking you would be alarmed in regard to what Martha Jane wrote you yesterday about the money which would be needless for I went to the express office yesterday and got it I wish you could see aunt she is enjoying herself remarkably well and we derive equally as much pleasure from this unexpected visit I was out in the country when she came I got the word and got on my horse and was not long coming home I imagine I went back ~~b~~ the next morning but I have come in to stay untill she starts home we are all going over the river this afternoon a fishing I was up to Lyons yesterday and had my teeth filled and they are rather sore this morning

Motherand Martha Jane keep up such a (alob ?) that I can scarcely write she is worrying all the time about you folks for fear something will happen while she is gone

Mother is talking of going out to Chicago with her but I tell

101 Cont.
her to wait untill fall and then go on to Indiana and stay this winter and take Lida, Cliff and Hiram and Lib and I have nice places that we could stay the winter I am going to take Aunt out to Mr Quicks that is the place where I live they are nice and wealthy people farmers also When uncle William was here this man asked ($6000) for his farm and now he asks ($15 000) as it is most a beautiful place well uncle I will not write any more this morning So with love to Aunt Grandmother cousins and except a large share for yourself

Your affectionate niece
Sarah (Mills)

102. Oct 13 / 67

Dear uncle and Aunt I take the time to let you know that we are all well but Bell She hant bin Well for a leong time i thought that you had forgot that you had for gott that you had a Brother or if he had left any orphan Children Have you done anything about the land Want you to write about it it is very cool Here Know we are getting along pretty Well Wood Patchler got wed yesterday ~~xxx~~ & aunty and Mrs Vandegrift Want you to tell uncle Jesse to write and tell what he is doing i am goung to the post Office to Day

Yours truly Mary J. Brumfield
to S.(trother) Brumfield.

(From the eldest child of Hiram Brumfield and Mary E Harper. She was born 4-24-1854.) RCP

~~xxx~~
103. ~~perhaps Ill~~ Io.
Montana(~~Xxxx~~) Dec. 26th /67

Dear Brother I have been waiting for material to make a letter of for you for some time past and have got a little I am working here for the railroad Co at $ 3.00 pr day and have been since the 8th of last month have not been home since but hear from there occasionally Mary and Clifton was here or rather at Stantons last week and all were in good health Lib was married at Stantons last Monday night and left the next morning for her home in Illinois James Holcraft and Addy left here 10 minutes since for Santa Cruz California He has been attending the Supreme Court Says he thinks that Thornburg fairly beat out of all that he claimed though the Court may return the case for a new trial(the decision is not yet rendered) he says that Williamson is workin hard the Pleadings which was oral occupied three days and(Nurse ?)was fairly wound up I shall write you as soon as I hear the desision and I expect that Williamson will write you also I think that if there is a new trial granted Thornburg will not be permitted to swear the reseon he was permitted before was because of the Traitor Abbott and Judge Maxwell both having conspired against us to get that which does not belong to them May the Lord never forgive me if I do not both of them all I can I shall put myself to some trouble to attend to them that $20.00 has to come back in some shape If he is honest the Devil is You wanted me to go to Adel and se about the taxes I will as soon as I can but Perkins is all right he has been enquiring about the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ caracters of the lawing parties finds to his satisfaction that the Thornburgs are Spurious compared with the Genuine and says so

103 Cont.

You look around andbe careful where you and when something mean is about all that is left for them be on your gaurd for I believe vengance is sworn against you individually I have heard that if they have to leave that property all that will burn must burn Rails and houses he built CAIN- 16 x 26 - 12 ft high very well done I think that he will try to prevent it as he has cut the timber to build it under an injunction
I amboarden at the Empire House in Montana I have heard that you thought of coming here I do not know that it necessary I(f) there is anything that I could do let me know Soon as I canI shall go to Demoin

Direct to me Montana Iowa if you write immediately if not to Alton

Yours J.P. Mills.

104. State of Indiana/ ss.
Randolph County

To any Constable of White River Township : now are commanded to summon Strother Brumfield Martha J Brumfield Sarah L. Brumfield Jesse Mills William R Coggshall & E. Vandergrift to appear before me at my office in said Township on the 29th day of April 1867 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon to answer interrogations in behalf of the defendant in a complaint wherein Levi Thornburg is plaintiff and Strother Brumfield and Jesse Brumfield Executors of the estate of Jesse Brumfield d ecd.are defendant; and return then and there this writ.
Witness my hand and Notorial Seal this 20th day of April 1867,.

Martin B. Miller, Notary Public.

105. Des Moines Iowa Nov. 4th 1867.

Strother Brumfield, Winchester Ind.,
Dear Sir:
I attended the last Dallas Court and succeed in getting your case up by having it at night after Court adjourned as I found it would not be reached on regular corce of the Dockett It was finally submitted and the Judge of the Case ------ ? with me ? & decide in vacation He has decided it against you contrary to law as well as the evidence I have not a particle of doubt but that you will gain the case in the Supreme Court The District Judge is a weak Bro & you are a non resident and Thornburg is a voter in this County I have taken steps to carry the Case to the Supreme Court which meets in December when it will no doubt be determined The District Court gives you $ 5$ per acre for the land with 6 per ------- ?
The expense will be considerable in taking up the Record as it is quite extensive and I am not advised what it will be I have writtento Perkins to ascertain the Clerks costs It will probably be as much as $ 20 which you must send me right away The docket fee in the Supreme Court is $3 Had I any doubt about the case I would not advise an appeal but I can see no chance atall for Thornburg under the laws and the evidence I will send you a copy of the Judges opinion which will satisfy you that he wanted to find for Thornburg Yours &c.
J. W. Williamson

106. A fragment of a letter fro J.B. Mills No date

I had to get this to close on. Boys be of good cheer there is a good time coming bye and bye Girls Aunt Mary has much to say about you and would be glad to see you and we would to see you all and it seems if we should spend $100 to come would be behind a long time if we live & have fair luck we must try and see you ina couple of years with love respects and high regards
J.B. & Mary Mills Saturday finds 172 lbs of JBM

107.

(A fragment of a letter from J B Mills) Post Civil War Probably Albany Ill.

I do not know where Stacy Rainiers directory is at.

We have received a letter from Stanton since last I wrote to you It contained nothing of interest except that they was enjoying good health. Clifton received a letter from Sarah Jane Branson yesterday She says they are all well but finally concluded by saying that Pa cut his knee and Ma has a pain inher Breast There are some here making preparations to go to Montana are offe offering Seventy five to One hundred dollars a month for teamsters to go and return half cash in advance
This is a very fine day The Presbyterian Church has just broke and I see them dividing off in couplets you see I did not attend I can sit here and see them all dressed to within an inch of their lives I will give you the prices of living here Wheat 50 cts to a $1.00 according to quality Oats 15 cts Corn inthe ear 20 cts Shelled 23 Pork $ 9.00 per cwt Beef per qr fore $7 Hind 8 Cut from 1 to 12½ Coffee common Rio 35 Sugar fair crown 20 White 28 Cheese 25 Butter 25 eggs 30 Thousand legged sleds (?) $5.00 to $8.00 If I forget any thing you want to know please send me word
28th. There are three trains a dayon our Rail Road one at 7 Oclock AM one at noon and one 7 PM going east To morrow they connect with the Rock Island Road at Port Byron There are two Dry Goods and Grocery StoresThree Grocery and Provision Stores Two drug stores and one Hardware and one steam sash , door , and Blind Factory and a planeing Mill The saw mill near our house has been torn down and rebuilt on a larger scale Will be finished early in the spring There are also two blacksmiths and a clever sprinkling of shoemakers one lawyer and notary Public and two MDs and two Fellers with one team keeping Livery and Old Plow keeping Eagle(Hotel) and one Millner and some loafers not so many as I have saw here as Boarding is $5.00 to $7.00 per week and cash at that they are obliged to do somethig for a living besides their lazy trade There is one butcher that sells Beef at 7 cts per lb to 12½ Mr Buckingham fell on the ice yesterday and dislocated his Hip a serious thing for the old man
I believe that our discharges from the army are becoming likely to be a valuable thing I could have had a $150 for mine when I received them but I said No I am nearly dead from being so closely confined I must go somewhere I cant stay here We are all well write soon Our best respects to all and hope to hear of your good health soon
J.B. and Mary Mills.

Boonsboro Iowa
July 21st 186 ?

108

Dear brother we received your letter a couple weeks ago and as I had no news to write I defered answering it until now we are all in good health hoping these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing Jim Holcroft and Adda were here last Thursday and Adda is coming in a few days to stay a week Jim says he is going to stay in Iowa till next Spring and then he is going back to California and will take Adda along Jim wrote to me last Spring and I though if I would not answer his letter that he would not show himself to me but it done no good I dont think any more of him than the meanest man in the U.S. and Adda is in a fair way for making the same kind of woman that he is a man we cant expect anything better of her if he keeps her with him and drags her around over the Country Burgett was here last Wednesday night He says that your case was left with the Judges and they will bring in a decision next Court which I believe is next month He says that every (one) over there expects that Lee will gain it and Lee is confident of himself Lee has the old field on the side in clean and is getting up lumber to build a house this fall and is talking of selling some of the land Burgett asks $24 per acre for his farm
We have bought a first rate cow since I wrote to you last for which we paid $50 we have a good garden we sold $7 or $8 worth of Onions & beets and have an abundance left Hascal and Franklin have got a steam engine so the river can keep up if it wants to No more at present but remain your affectionate brother
S(tanton) J. Brumfield

108. Winchester Ind., Jan 1st 1868.

J.B. Mills, Montana Iowa.
(happy New Year) Dear Brother
I received your letter yesterday morning it was a welcom visitor for it releived my mind some I was pretty certain that we could have something done when that case went to the Supreme Court I am certain that we can gain that case if there is justice done us All the lawyers here at Winchester say that it is the one of the strangest things that they ever heard of I feel confident that Williamson and Perkins will will(do) their best the last letter I got from Perkins he stated that he would do the best he could for me I am in Winchester working at Mill writing and have been since the 4th of Nov last the Heaston boys are building a new flowring Mill I expect to work here all winter I have a man living on my farm that does my work I have him hired by the year since the 14th of Aug. last so that I have a better chance than common to be away from home
my folks do not know yet that I have a letter from you I look for a letter this week from Williamson I heard from one of my neighbors that it is going the rounds down in our settlement that I do not go to Iowa any more for if I did I would be taken up and sent to the Penetenciary for two years on the account of that land matter or lawsuit I am not the least alarmed about it I have done nothing that I am ashemed of I know one thing I never sold any land to L Thornburg I am well satisfied of that fact I know another thing that I never will consent to It is one of the most contemtible outrages(Tom Brown says he ever heard of.
I want you to keep me posted as well as you can from time to time Thornburg desreves the Pententiary if any man does.

109 Cont

You watch him close Since I wrote you last I got a letter from Perkins sending me the amount of tax it is $64.00 a little high I think but however I will send by the last of this month the amount to Perkins if I can get it. It is a pretty hard month to get money. all the way I have now to get is to work for it as I am now working for I raised nothing to sell this summer and am behind already some but Jess and I will try to carry that thing through I am bound not to be beat by such rascals as they are although it is pretty hard on me and has been for several years I have no more at this time Write soon again

Yours as ever S(trother) Brumfield

who did Lib marry and what does he follow

I think in the wind up it will get Thornburg in a dangerous place put him ---- way for the Penetentiary where he ought to have been long ago.

110.

Feb. 6th 1868
Spring Valley Township
Dallas County Iowa

Mr S. Brumfield Sir.

I have been waiting for an answer from you for more than a month and it has not come yet and I shall leave this open until tomorrow when I shall be at the post office Well when I come to think I (cound ?) I wrote to you from Montana a month since and I have also written to Williamson and do not hear from that suit but by report of those that would be glad to hear of our defeat Yesterday I heard that Thornburg was beat This evening He has come from Desmoines ---- says that in the Supreme Court the Judgement was set aside and an order was granted for a new trial but I do not believe him I think that he has a dishonest motive in view the weather is and has been very cold so that I could not go to Desmoines and it would cost me about five dollars a trip and they (the dollars) are very scarce If the judgement is in our favor I can only stand and see them haul Rails or timber or lumber or Houses off the land a very poor consolation Jo gets his fire wood and cuts any timber he pleases I cannot say a word. and if they choose they may say to me get off those premises all that I can do is to go Le has borrowed some rails from Mrs Potts Suppose he commences to haul her rails to her and does not stop until he gets all of the place and I report to you and what can you do Sue a beggar and catch a louse I have written all those things to Williamson and do not hear a word Has the heirs signed an order to Sell this land or not What must I do let me know We are all in reasonable health Write immediately

Yours &c J B. Mills.

Mark your letters thus X over my name on the envelope as there are many Mills here and I will notify the P.M. here of it to avoid mistakes

Ben Connel is here at Thornburgs at present.

111.

Desmoines Iowa
Feby 17th 1868.

Strother Brumfield

Dear Sir In the matter of Thornburg I will say that in the decision of the Supreme Court Thornburg is a mere tresspasser upon the land . He cannot recover for any improvements he may have made upon the land . In order for him to recover he would have to do it as an occupying claimant and would have "show color?,, of till? which he cannot do. The only

(title?)

111 Cont.

question now to be tried is the right of the Heirs to possession. The Patents & deeds of Jessie Brumfield deceased is all in evidence except proof of heirship. That will be necessary- I would advise you to commence at once a suit to recover possession and for the value of the rents & profits and for damages in cutting timber &c in the name of the heirs.
(The part below has been crossed out.)
I would suggest to you however that you avoid the great expense attending litigation and it would be better to have something by way of compromise than to enter into litigation You can judge of this however for yourself.

Yours & c W.W. Morrison.

112.

Spring Valley Iowa
March 26th 1868.

Mr S . Brumfield:
I see by the Winchester Journal that our much esteemed friend S Bromfield has returned from Iowa to his home where he gained a law victory having the right side of the case We are in reasonable health at present I have not been to Adel yet but sent a letter to Desmoins have not recd an answer yet I thought I would go to Adel this week but the weather has changed very bad after a few fine days I have succeeded in just beginning to find out who does know anything about our business I accidentally at a House Moving and found a new man and rather forced two more names out of Keller all have made rails on the land for since the service of the injunction Their names are Ashury Touchin Clarence and John Bennett I now conclude to summon David Hastie and Andrew Keller to prove the value of the use of the premises I have been going around about two Weeks and I think George Finn & ----- Burdeck knows something and in fact more than any other person about taking-Finn and I believe he will absent himself I would like to take another round before I return those names I hope to hear from Williamson tomorrow and will leave this space.
I have not heard from Stanton We received a letter from Lib. They are surrounded by water 3 feet deep nearest land above water one mile they got their stock on the hay stacks The cause of the water rising was a gorge of ice in the Rock River which threw great fields of ice in the Cat Tail Bottom 3 miles wide Fain and his two Brothers lost considerable how much not known on the 11 th inst the water was receding I thought to get a few days work at the saw mill but it has failed to go after setting the Engine an Fly wheel they failed to get water and has moved the machinery ½ mile farther off Three days more will finish our fence around ten acres of land (yet) then I must find some work or quit Boarding at home I cannot anything to eat without the cash There is not any chance to get Jo off the land that I see but to sue him off This is all I think of at present

Yours Truly J.B. Mills.

113. Boonsboro Iowa,
April 22nd 1869.

Dear brother and Sister
I take this present opportunity to inform you that we are all well as common and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing I got a letter from Joe this morning(in answer to one I wrote to him some time ago) telling me to come to his house next sunday for Court Commenced the next day the letter was dated 16th it too surprised me for you told me that Court Commenced the 4th monday in April and that is next monday and I was concluding to go over there next Saturday I talked with the County Judge about it after I got the letter and he said that Court commenced at Adel the 4th monday after the 4th monday in March which fetches it the 3rd monday in April it takes a letter as long to come from Buffalo Grove to Boonsboro as it does from Winchester to Boonsboro Joe says they have lost both of their cows by accident Boonsboro is commencing to build again quite rapidly several brick blocks are to be put up around the public Square this summer the County paper says all kinds of business 30 per cent better than it was this time last year next time you come here you can ride from the Depot to the Court House on a Street Car
The Scarlet fever is next door north of us a dutch family moved in there last week from Buffalo N.Y. and brought it with them one of them died monday morning(a girl aged 15) Our baby was exposed to it before we knew what it was I expected you would write to me as soon as you got home I didnt think it necessary to tell you to write for I thought you knew your duty and would do it
No more at present but write
We still remain your affectionate brother and Sister

S(tanton) J and M J Prumfield.

114. Boonsboro Iowa June 14th / 68.

Dear brother I have neglected answering your letter until the present time and now I think I have good opportunity for my family are all over at Buffalo Grove alond(g) with Lide Cutter I look for them home today we have had nice seasonable weather here this spring and crops look fine where grass hoppers have left them alone they are hurting the wheat the worst of anything at present they havent damaged my garden any yet although they are coming in it. Haskal and Franklin have sold out to Hanelton & Geitzey Franklin is working in the machine shop by the day Jacob Franklin has moved to Jefferson 25 miles west of here, I am still working in the shop I have just completed a job that took me 9½ days it was a ward robe Bookcase Washstand bureau and Secretary all combined it faced 2 ways I get $ 92 for making it the new brick blocks that I told you were going up here this summer are commenced business is very lively here considering grass hoppers Several nice dwelling houses have been completed and othere are building Haskal is building himself a house
I dont know of any news from the Grove if there is any I will tell you after they get back I had forgotten to tell you that our new boss(Mr Geitgey) is a big Freemason
No more at present only here is a note that I clipped from the Chicago Journal "more than 20 000 acres of land has passed into the hands of actual settlers this spring.About 75 000 acres will be put into cultivation this year in excess of any other season"

My folks have come but bring no news. (underlined)

115.

Boonsboro Iowa
~~XXXXXX~~ / 68.
July 19th

Dear brother we received your last letter in due season and was glad to hear from you we are all well at present hoping that you are the same Mr and Mrs Franklin were here today and have just gone home they are all well we had a fine rain last night and this morning the Grass hoppers have all left us but not without doing a great deal of damage to the oats wheat and garden stuff the hoppers took all of my cabbage and all of my beans and onions and injured the potatoes they didnt hurt beets or sweet potatoes there is the best prospect for crops in this (place) that there ever was before where the grass hoppers have left them alone I havent heard from Buffalo Grove since I wrote to you last I think from all accounts the Grasshoppers used them worse over there than anywhere else in Iowa business is beginning to liven up again and the prospects are pretty fair for this fall corn fell from .95 cts to 50 cts when it was found that the hoppers were going away without injuring the corn ---------- corn came down 50 cts last week it is (?) $5.50 per 100 lbs Our bosses are both Democrats so I hear If you are coming out this fall write and let me know
Write soon Your affectionate brother
S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

116

August 30th 1868.

Respecte old Neighbor I embrace this present to write you a few lines to let you no that we are all well and have been housed up prety closely today for it has been raining most all day. We have had a very good season here. Every thing lookes well here considering how it was eaten by the grass hoppers except Wheat it was the nearest destroyed of anny other kind of graine in fact there was but very few that had any to cut at all we happened to be amungst the lucky ones we had 200 bushels off of 23 acres not quite a half crop, . Corn is thind out considerable but there is tolerabl good crop of corn Potatoes and cane in abundence The soil here is as good as it looks to be. All kinds of vegetation grows thrifty here We have 20 acres broke for corn next season and are putting up hay as fast as we can. So no more in that direction . Now Strother I want you to collect my sale money as quick as possible for I am oblige to have it. As soon as As soon as you collect some anough worth sanding send it out for I have a chance to pay it over and stop the interest Send it either by express or draft Send it to Montana Boone Co. Iowa Write soon and let me no the prospect When you send mony write a few lines before hand and let me no when you are going to start it Joseph Mills was well a few days ago
You and Luiser come over soon

A.D. Mathis?)

117.

Boonsboro Iowa,
Sept 13 / 68

Dear brother
We are all well as common and hope you are all enjoying the same we were all over to the Grove last Sunday and found things in a prosperous condition the wheat and Oats crop were almost a failure but the corn Sorgum and other crops look well Mary has all the corn potatoes Squashes turnips Sorgum buckwheat &c she can make use of and more too She is a queen now I didnt say anything to Lee or Joe Thornburg but I seen them both at a distance Pinkney said that Lee had said he wanted see me and I suppose that was all that he wanted for he might have spoken to me if he had wanted to I have been hauling hay for the last few days I have about 8 ton and wanted to get two more I shall hire some body to haul this week one of my mares got kicked on the joints of one of her hind legs and is a cripple for the present and I am afraid always will be I have two very nice horse colts that I intent to keep if I can I have quit working in the shop and am going to work at carpenters work in the morning at $2.75 per day the boss cut down on the prices and I quit Since Jan 1st (10) '67 I have made 425 tablesof all kings(d) 322 of them breakfast tables and 19 of them extension tables but I made tables before '67 and I believe altogether I have made enough to know how I have bought back my house and lot but it shant hinder me from moving to that land when I get a chance
no more at present yours &c
S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

Adel Ovt 13 th / 68

118
Strother
I am here at present in reasonable health heard from home today Mary and Hiram are well Stanton and Hiram came from our house today Amanda Franklin and Stanton came there yesterday both Franklins are well Mary and Hiram will go and take them home
Court adjourned today our case stands nearly the same the Court refused to Dockett the decision of the Supreme Court Mr Williamson said that if it was not so close to the close of the term he would go and get a writ to compel him to do so as it was he had not time to go to Davenport and get back in time to do anything so he is pursuing another course and Old Max has thirty days to look it over Mr Williamson says that then he must decide in our favor then in April next we will try again and let it stand on the Dallas County Dockett We had our affidavit made out for me to have the whole thing moved out of the District but when he come to examine the papers my name as one of the parties was not there(Marys name being used) and the case was all in pieces and we concluded to let it stand for the present if we get it on the docket then we can do as we choose though Williamson says we are all right then but I shall favor a change of Venue as we have to Law the Judge Nurse and Thornburg who is of the least consequence and if we move it his witnesses will be less in number I doubt not.

18th.

The weather has become very cold and disagreeable This Sunday I want to make all the time I can before I go home and do not want to return this season Mary and Hiram are very lonesome and I ought to be there I preceive that your letters or mine to you have been misplaced also others to you from Mr St Johns

119 Cont.

as he says he sent you two and received no answer and the same of myself and cannot but think that if you had received them you would answer
Stanton wants to come to Buffalo this fall but the chance is poor at present J.A Moore told me that he knew that no man would come here 600 miles and make the improvement that Lee had without a contract for the land Stating this in the Bank at Adel before Lees friends I suppose for Capitla. Said I you are sure that is the truth. Yes I know it. Well sir you know that all that improvement has been made after he was enjoined by the Court and instructed what he had a right to use and its purposes No said I do not then you do not know any thing about it the contract. neither does any other person(In Presence of Ben Cannel)
and he kept still. I send this in the care of John Richardson for safety Truly Yours

J.B. Mills

Direct to Alton

118. Oct 22nd Adel 9 oclock

I am now going home Benjn Inman and Jacob arrived here yesterday and will go with me Mary came down here with Sarah Mareah Miller last evening All well J.B. Mills

119. Boonsboro Iowa Oct 18/68

Dear brother & Sister we recd your letter and was glad to hear from you we are all well except Minnie she has the summer complaint and has had the ague I hope you are all enjoying good health I went to Adel the day that Court Commence and was there nearly all the time until Court closed Thornburg came to me and asked me if it was our intention to have the case tried at that term of court for he said he wanted to send for his witnesses if we intended to have it tried I told him we wanted it tried so he sent for his witnesses and we sent for ours Our lawyers (St John and Givin) tried every opportunity to bring the suit to a trial but Nurse by some excuse or other would put it off from one day to another until Friday of the first week and the Judge wanted from then till the next Tuesday to decide whether they could bring in new evidence on the old suit or not which they claimed to have discovered I started home friday afternoon and started back monday and got there Tuesday 10 oclock but had nothing to do but come home(except paying for the witnesses) Williamson was there and said he expected the trial would go off as much as could be when Tuesday came the Judge wanted 30 days to give his decision in regard to new evidence on the old case and that was the end of this term of court Lee came to me after all this happened and said he was ready to compromise as he always had been I told him that I couldent compromise with him but if he had any proposition to make that I would write to you and see what you would say about it but he made none I told him as far as I was concerned I would be willing to give him somethig to leave the place but dident tell him how much My opinion is that a jury next Spring will give him something for his improvements over and above the use of the place and leave him on there next March a year in the bargain Ben Campebell was on hands at the trial but he didnt speak to me Lee was very friendly and says he has nothing against Stant

No more at present S(tanton) J Brumfield

119 Cont.

I spent 9 days which were worth $2.75 perday	$ 24.75
Paid the witnesses	13.20
Paid for Board	3.40
	$ 41.35

This is what I am out of pocket and expect to get back when the estate is settled.

120. Home Nov 16th 1868

Strother
I came home Saturday 10 Oclock PM Last night it rained lightly all night This morning early it commenced snowing and blowing and is some disagreeable and I cannot return as I intended today Mary is pleased at the disappointment I want to work 3 weeks longer the Rail Road is a go sure now you will want to know where well there is to be a town built here where well I will tell you You know where John Willis barn is well it is laid out in lots You know where Jones is they want that for the same purpose Well you (know) Bennetts 40 this side of Joneses they have bought it for lots it is in sight about one mile the Co have been buying all the timber land that they could and it will be stripped for ties very soon they offer 50 cts per piece 6 x 6 in square 8 ft long as soon as I can see the one legged man again I will put his Eye on this and see what he says The grading is being done here The shanties are built all along from here to Desmoines The bridge there has been under contract for 3 weeks to be completed in 90 days and well advanced at this time Our land here certainly will sell for very near $ 5000 .00 at present I think that we have no reason to push the thing into a forced compromise I do not write this as a final decision of my mind for I do not know how old Max has arranged the decision of the Supreme Court. There is this as soon as I can hear from Williamson then I will know better There is this I think that they have heard that we would move the trial out of the district and if they have not I want time to pass it around to them and all of those things I want to hear such as I told A.H. Moore in the Bank at Adel &c Land here is increasing in value another year will double some of it I think our attorneys are good at least it is my present opinion I have much confidence in Len Given Mr St John will do all he can There was a question of admitting new testimony in the case last Court and go over the whole thing so they left and sent Williamson and he had it set aside for the present Thornburg has had his host there and when we move the thing then some of them will want more money than they have been receiving they are oneasy at present if they do not get any of this land they se that they must go farther and simply holding it sendt them farther from home Jo and his wife is very uneasy and declares he shall go and buy somewhere soon I will write you again as soon as I hear more be easy and slow about talking to Old Jo We are favored in this storm being under the timber I want to sell my land price $ 2000.00 things are looking up here I would rather have the 40 south of ours than take that price Louisa look here Mary says tell you that she is making mush out of corn that grew on our land we may have a hard time this winter let us look and see Milk and Butter plenty Coffe Tea sugar(white) plenty Sorgum Syrup near enough for winter

120 Cont.

besides one half barrel of potatoes 35 bushel of turnips 30 do One fat hog of our own production and when he comes home will bring our bread We have 110 lbs of flour and one sack of meal 50 doz cucumber pickles and Half a barrel of Pumpkin Butter made of Squashes that took Hiram and me carry one from the field I want Mother to know that we are not to suffer uhtil we eat all that we have mentioned I saved one peck of Buckwheat but the frost killed it Mother if you was here you could share with us and we would have plenty of all but house room

For Mary

You wanted to know about Clifton You know that Lake in the timber above out land he shot and wounded a duck and set the gun against a tree went in and across followed up the edge of the water went in and must have cramped in 10 feet water cloths on in the water 12 days a mous ? dog caught the duck the next morning after but did not see the gun and was within 10 feet of it on the path marked on the diagram and in 18 days there must have been 50 persons passed the gun on the path and it not obscured by a leafor spear of grass

(Below the letter contains a diagram of site)

6 Oclock PM.
I think I will now begin my letter Yours of the 11th ultimo came to hand 2 weeks ago and I have been gone since the reason that it remained unanswered We are well at present and are glad to hear of your good health except the pestiferous chills We are sorry to think that you must stay there in that low damp climate not one in a thousand here have the chills Excuse me for not writing more

Yours as ever J.B. Mills.
I must eat an apple apiece for each of you.

(Close)

121 Adel Feb, 18th 1869

Strother We have our case all straight it is transferred to the circuit court for next Monday week do all you can we ought to have our witnesses to prove damages and we will want some money come if you can possibly The Gun is loaded and will go off unless we stop it This is our new court Judge Mitchell J.B.M.

Mr Richardson please forward in haste to Strother and oblige

J.B. Mills

Tax	$55.08
1 pc	.60
	$ 55,68

122. Bufulo Grove March the 5 1869

Mr Strauder Brumfield
my Dear friend I thaut that it was my duty xxx to right to you and let you know how things is here you hay had two agent for the farm and they wer not ver good Mr Perkins lived two fare awa to cetoit and the last one I understand that he went and tryed to hire a man to chop some of the best trees that stood ner the hous and he wuld not do it and he too(R) the ax and don it himself and I believ that theres some more cut I dont kno who it was I think if you cold seel the farm it wold be the best thing that you can do it will sun be spoilt if you wold sell it seperate I belive you cold sell but there are not a menney that wants so much right to me and let me no what is the least you will take for it and if you will sell it seperate or not land is very cheap at present the quorter that lies right east of the house can be bot for eighty Dolers and any one can can buy all the land that they want out in the Peririe for forty cents per acer I thihk that if you will take a fare price for it I can find a byer if I stay here I went away last faul to scool my children and the neibers is down on me for they think that I will right to you about the timber that was cut while I was goh I wanted to get the hous to live in and I cold not I think if you apoint any agent you had beter have Mr Bryet pease do not let any one know how you got your nuse for we are poo and dont want any more enemes than we can elp I wish you knew all about it without me telling you if it is ever so I can I will make it all right between you and me so no more at present Direct your letters to allton Dallas Co Iowa
My respects to all your friends Catherine Potts.
Yours truly Catherine Potts.

123. Boonsboro Iowa
May 2"/69

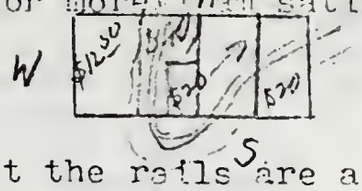
Dear brother it has been some time since I received your letter and since I had no news to writ I put it off until now we are all well as common and hope you are enjoying the same blessing I havent heard from the grove since I wrote to you or at least no news I suppose the place is laying there idle unless Joe is tending part of it things are going on smoothly here there is some building going on in both towns and considerably in the Country I suppose that from what you and Jesse say in your letter I will not be apt to get any of that land unless I pay the largest price but I want to be on hands when it is sold and if it should sell reasonably low I want some of it how do you intend to sell it and do you know when you can sell it will it be appraised again if I should happen to buy some of it what would be the terms if the land sells for a big price I am very willing to let it go May 2nd

Pleasant morning everything is beginning to turn green wheat and oats looks well and people are about ready to plant corn
Yours truly S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

124. Boonsboro Iowa June 13/69

Dear brother i received your letter after I came back from Adel I went down there last monday and came back wednesday I didnt say anything to Perkins about buying a part of the land for I thought it was not worh while if it sells if it sells at the figures that Joe put on it he put the xxx 2 east 80s at $20 per acre the west 80 at $18.50 and 60 A of timber on the

124 Cont. on the next 80 at $40 per A the other 20 onthat 80 being prarie to go xt with the second 80 from the east at $20 per A if it will all sell for that price I say let it go Here is Jess plan for dividing the land now I am willing to pay $15 per A for that 100 A but that is all I will pay and if you can sell it for more I am satisfied



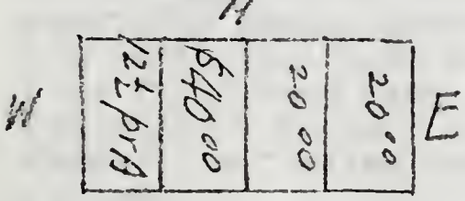
I suppose Joe wrote you that the rails are all hauled off &c and that we are through courting I think it has terminated well enough or at least I am glad that it has come to an end I spos lee goes contrary to law in stripping the place but most everybody there upholds him in it and are trying to have him nominated for Sheriff for Dallas County Our town is not improving much this season a few dwelling houses and the M E Church is about all the other town is building considerably and is already larger than this town imigration is very great to Iowa this season the most of it is to North Western Counties
Wheat looks firstrate
Oats " " corn backward on account of cool weather

Still remain yours &c
S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

125. June 16th 1869

Strother

The first thing I have to write you is the reason that I have not written before I waited for Court went down business all done before I got there they asked that it be dismissed at their cost and was granted that leaves nothing in Court for further action St John withdrew all the points in the case except for posession for the purpose of keeping them from proceeding as occupying claimants and holding over another year which you can see they would this I did not know before The money $ 80.00 came all safe and is on hand what shall I do with it Perkins as he has been on hand for some length of time would like to have some I had not a minute to talk with him and expected to be there last monday and there to have written this letter and will ascertain his bill direct to me here at Alton The tax rect I had forgot Stanton was at Court with me I priced the land this way The west 80 at $20 with 20 Acres off the North end of the next one or the 12½ marked I tried to make a bargain with Perkins but think he is very fair about making a sale of it He says if he has to come here and show it to buyers he ought to have pay for it if he sends some person here and makes out the papers a small fee for the papers would be all but I have a long letter to write you before long there are some parties that want the west 80 and I think have or will write to you for the price and if you do not like the prices that I have fixed to it say so you will see that it foots up to $7 400.00 and if we can find some person to Buy we have 400 to drop of on on a sale of all Our corn looks very well stands 12 inches high even all over the field Everything looks well but vines the Striped (or cucumber) Bug has been numerous here this Season the season has been what is termed a cold and backward



125 Cont.

one We have peas for use also Beets Onions lots of radishes the finest I ever saw Suellas (Indian) present to little Hi came all right but little Hi is 5 feet three inches tall 105 lbs Tell Suella your aunt has lots of flowers both wild and tame if you was here you could get armfulls of the nicest you ever saw and go with little Hi and gather lots of fine straw berries Aunt making a Straw berry P - I - E come and get some Stanton thinks the price on the land more than he can give but if it sells he wants to know
No more at present but our best respects
Yours truly J.B. Mills.

126.

Boonsboro Iowa
Sept 13" /69

Dear brother and Sister I take the present opportunity to let you know that we are well as common and there is one more of us the new one is a girl and its name is Amanda Francis It is 4 weeks old I went over to Mary's last Saturday a week with Uncle John Brumfield (note youngest bro to Jesse Brumfield Sr.) they were all well we looked over that west 80 some and I have concluded that if you will let me have that 80 as my share I will be willing to quit there is one thing very certain I want land or money pretty soon Uncle John came out two weeks ago he has gone to cherokee County to get him a homestead I have written to you and Jesse some time ago but have received no answer and I would like to hear from you I would like to know if Jesse is coming out this fall Times are pretty dull here for the past 2 months it is very wet the river was higher last week than it was ever before known this time of the year

yours truly, S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

127.

Boonsboro Iowa Oct 4" /69

Dear brother we received your letter last week and hardly know what to say about going to Adel to attend the Sale of the land but I suppose I had better go as it will save expense to the estate that is if Joe and I can attend to it as well as you can if we cant you had better come you must send me instructions what to do and how to proceed at the sale I would like for you to send me the amount of the expense of the land up to the present time I will tell some land buyers here about the Sale and do what I can toward selling it I dont think it worth while to go to any land agent about it Uncle John (Brumfield) is going to start for Kansas tomorrow to get him a homestead he went out in the North West part of this State to get him a homestead and didnt like it I have been out in the country working the last two weeks. finishing a house I think I will have another job there in a few days It is 7 miles North East I cant think of any more at present

Yours Truly S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

128.

Nov 30th 1869

Strother Louisa and all the Children Some of you we have not seen but have your pictures and do see much pleasure in looking them over occasionally we fancy that you (the children) being good countenances that you must be well behaved Scipio and Clinton do you think (as you are farmers) that you would like to commence plowing in the spring some time and not see stumps all the season and the ground so mellow that you must roll it to make

128 Cont.
it more compact no stumps to run your waggon or buggy into in gathering corn you need not drive around then the reaper and mower the same and finally your team runs or Skedadles a little there is not much harm done or things broken and lastly where you can see as far as you please and I must say also a State out of debt This is the place i.e. Iowa Indeed it is a great place to go out of evenings(I wont say what for) if you keep out of the Sloughs. Mary and Suella(India) this is a nice country for girls when there is good sleighing and Moonlight nights it is beautiful no heavy shadows made by dense wood s but clear as a whistle you wraped in Buffalo hide you enjoy a sleigh ride as a sleigh ride and your cheeks would look like new blown Rosies and in the summer such beautiful flowers that can be grown here with so little labour The X Zenias Dasies Pansies Gladiolas Petunias Portulicas and pinies(Peonias) they keep well in the ground in winter Oh well a whole thousand others Now Mary and Suella just come over next July or September and See your Aunt Mary's flowers and I will agree If I live and have good luck to give you some of the best melons you ever put in your face Now Louisa I expect that you have things very handy even Mud well we have had last season our share Will Rudrow says if he owned your property and lived on it he would not sell and move West but this is a good place for a person that must move or is not well fixed there or is disposed as I am I would not live there and farm it if I had but five years to live if ~~it~~ I knew the difference between the two places as I do I wish Mary and I had come here when we was married but still I do not greave for Spilt milk the paper is out and I go to town in the morning we are well except colds I have heard that Will sold the West 80 So I have been told I am expecting him here every day I could have sold it if Stanton had not wanted it and a man wanted me to see the lowest on the balance of it there is about 60 60 acres of timber on the 3rd 80 if you think it could go for less say so soon there it corners with mine on the N.W. corner and leaves a strip of Prarie on each side Isaiah Ellis was here last week 2 days I do not know whether he he is gobe home or not we have corn enough to do us and the mules ribs are beyond feeling I told the new Dunlap 20 was the price of the 2 80s He wants all if any Yours as ever J(oseph)P Mills.

129. Perry Iowa Mch 1870.

(TELEGRAM)

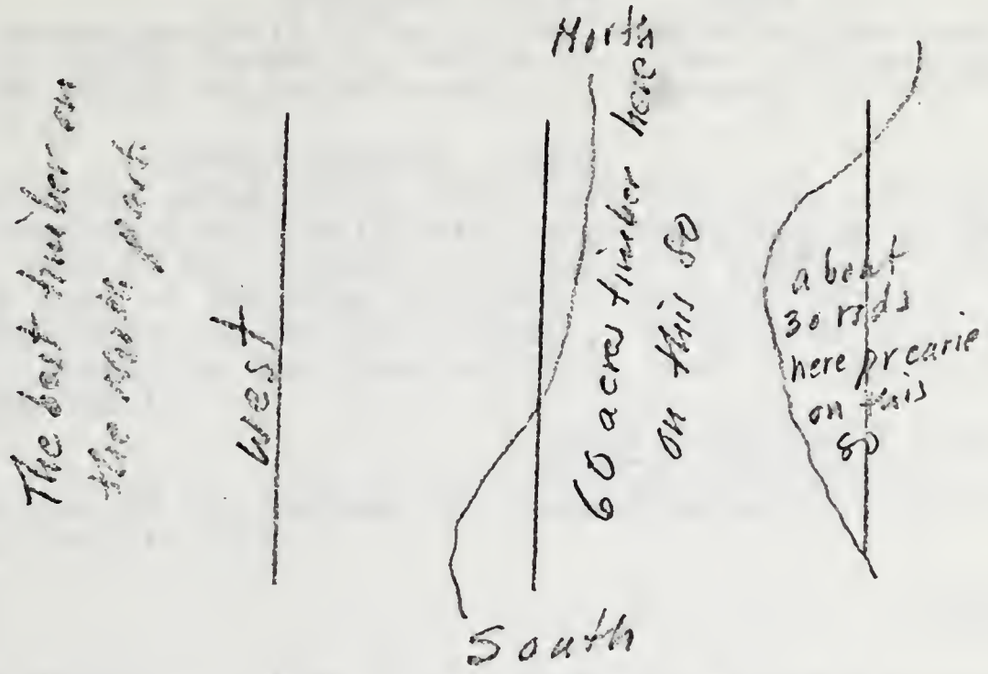
Strother Prumfield Winchester (Ind)
I have twelve hubdred (1200) dollars cash for the east Eighty 80 Answer by telegraph.

Joseph P. Mills.

130. June 24th 1870

Strother In answer to your letter first I though I had sold the west 80 and 10 acres of timber for $1200 and expected to send the deed today but there is many slips between the cup and the lip. and I guess this is one at present I have not asked less than $1600 for the now East 80 I asked $1500 for our 40 and if I should sell I should buy some of that land for it is very cheap considering its locality there is new improvements being made all around here that will force a sale of this land there has been circumstances that has hindered us from selling some of them are overcome and others are passing such as the Homestead Land being settled up in this State We can find the man after a little time if it was sold now for it appears that I cannot get time to write you a social letter. on account of business letter

130 Cont.
occupying all writing time. I give you on the next page a diagram of the timber as near as I can in haste. Well I must say that we are in good health and this folks are all well Mary has got about again but looks poorly Yours truly,
J.P. Mills
Cant you write us some other kind of a letter but a land letter



131. Perry (Iowa) Nov 17th 1870

Dear Brother & Sister:
We are all in reasonable health at present Lib arrived here last night in good health I recd yesterday a letter from Stanton Amy Vandergrift and Hannah Gibbs came here just as I recd your letter directing the Advertisement of the land and they are bound to go back with you if possible Foolish Old Women I took them home last Saturday week and had the advertisements arranged and inclose one of the posters to you and I expect you have recd a paper before this time as you requested Boys Hi has his corn gathered finished yesterday 350 bushels and did not plow around narry stump and no other difficulty except the land is very mellow so that 25 bushels made a good load No sickness to report here I must now write to Stanton
Best wishes to All
Yours Truly, J.P. Mills.

132. Lakeville Ind., Nov 30th 1870.

Mr S. Brumfield,
Respected Brother I take the pres opportunity to reply to yours of the 5th inst I expect to start on Tuesday eavning the 13th So as to get to chicago in time to take the night trane west if you can meet us there Mother is going and Lib saves She is going to, I want to get home by christmas we are all about at present no more at present Yours as ever
Wm Clenny to S(trother) Brumfield

133. A list of orchard apple trees here and instructions on planting. (Not copied.)

134. Nov 7th 1870.
see over.

134 Cont. (Copy of sale bill for Jesse Brumfield land ** Iowa.

PUBLIC SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Chance for
BARGAINS
Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday
DECEMBER 20 TH , 1870
The undersigned will offer at public Sale on the premises in Spring Valley Township, Dallas Co., Iowa all real estate belonging to the estate of Jesse Brumfield, deceased, consisting of 240 acres of

CHOICE PRAIRIE LAND

About fifty acres broke, and about 100 acres of Timber adjoining the prairie land. Said lands are described as se 1/4 Sec 2 and east half of SW 1-4 sec 2, township 81 range 28, situated 1 1-2 miles east of the town of Perry , on Beaver Creek. Terms easy and made known on the day of sale. Said lands will be sold in such parcels as the Executors may deem for the best interests of the Estate.

JESSE BRUMFIELD and
STROTHER BRUMFIELD
Executors of the Esttate of Jesse Brumfield , dec'sd.
Dated Nov 7th 1870.

135. Jand 23rd 1871.

Dear Brother we left J.B. a fiew hour after you got to Docks at 5 PM Stayed one night Starte home at 11 AM got to South Bend at 12 noon found us a teem and sleds (?) and snowigg allso the coldest day of the winter so far next day we had a nice Christmas tree a Christmas cake ? the snow laste to the 10th then left had a general thaw and Sleete yesterday and last night it snowed about three inches team hauled logs today money close her(e) cor(n) wort 40 cts wheat $1.10 no more at present Yours as ever Wm . Clenny to S. Brumfield,

(Jennie Branson writes in the same letter)

Lakeville, Ind.
Jan 19th 1870

Dear Uncle and Aunt

I take the present opportunity of writing you a few lines Pap and Mother got home safe Mother got pretty cold coming from South Bend home We have had good sleighing here but there is none now it rained all day last friday and Saturday there was such a heavy Sleet that it broke the apple trees and Cherry trees all to pieces and the timber is all broke down in the woods. Last Saturday and Sunday was the Quartly Meeting it wasnt a very good time either. We are a gont to have visitors tomorrow Mrs Sallie Miller and that B're Jackson that was just married three weeks ago to night and Mrs Henson and Mrs Dopp and Mrs Eldred. Mother will put a piece of her dress in this letter for Becky Rogers. I got a letter from Grandmother Brock this evening. she is coming out here the first of Febuary . This leaves us well I try and get Pap to write some in this letter

So no more write soon
Jennie Branson.

136. Boonsboro Iowa Feb. 1" 1871

Dear Brother and Sister
We just received your letter Mother is at Joes yet and I sent the receipt to her ~~I will~~ I will sign mine and send it with this We are all well

S.J. Brumfield.

137.

Perry Feb 6th 1871

Dear Brother and Sister.

We are in excellent health and Mother is and has been in good health has been to ADMs the past week and visited Mills and Carness and returned today all right Pinkney Ann Jim and Mary they are all in reasonable health Rosa seems to not gain much yet I received a letter from Stanton yesterday containing a blank receipt for Mother to sign which she will tomorrow and in the evening will be on the road to you we are about out of news at present and half past 8 Oclock I have made up one poor log into rails and stakes one of my Horses is lame with cut foot no snow yet ground bare a Sprinkle last night a very fine winter for feeding hogs stock easy on feed here this season We are out to the Paint ? ------ Yours Truly

J.B. Mills

PS It is 14 miles to that land and it is about 7 miles South of Jefferson the same west of Ripley I guess there is some ponds in the vicinity I had better see it
(On the back of the letter) I thought I would sign that receipt as witness not on Her account but May be necessary to show others as it is possible that she might not return .

J.B. Mills.

138.

Feb 14th 1871
Mr Strother Brumfield,

Dear brother yours of the 25th of Jan came to hand in due time and I will now return those receipt, we are all well hope this ma(y) find you the same we are busy getting in logs it is the best sledding we have had this winter We hav(e) about half Stock of logs we had 12 teams yesterday and 15 today with men you see I cant write but little . A corps of enginners was surveying a RR line 1 ½ miles ~~north of Lakeville~~ south of here yesterday it will be located ther or ½ mile north of Lakeville So said by the nowen ones No more

W & E Clenny to S and L Brumfield.

(On the back in Jennie Branson's hand)
We heard from Grandmother once since she went out there but we dont know whether she wants to come home or not.

Unsigned

138.

Green Oak Ind., Feb. 17" 1871

Mr Strother Brumfield

Dear Sir Yours of the 2nd inst is at hand and in reply will say that I am in need of my money very much & Doe request you to Send it as Soon as possible you will find my Receipt herewith Enclosed & signed you will send the money By the United ExpressCo to Rochester Fulton County Indiana and you will please write to me at the time you send & direct to Green Oak Fulton Co. Ind.

OVER

139 Cont.
Now in reference to the money belonging to the minor heirs I have made arangements for a gaurdian to be appointed as soon as you inform me by letter that the money is ready I Cannot get a gaurdian to act in the premises without giving him control of the money

Elizabeth N. Brumfield.
(Widow of Hiram Brumfield)

140. (Here follows a deed by which J.B. Mills and Mary Mills convey about 125.5 acres of land to Strother Brumfield. this land is situated in the SE ¼ of Sec. 2 t 81 N of Range 10? 28 West of 5th Principal meridian Iowa The consideration is two thousand dollars. The date is March 4th 1871

141. Perry March 9th 1871
Strother Inclosed you will find Martha Janes recd I thought to send with the others but they will not be recorded on the Probate Record until the last of next week . So the Clerk told me the whole proceeding having to be recorded with the order for the sale &c requiring about ten pages of the court record. If the deeds had come single the cost would have been $7.00 but both being together the fee is $5.00

Recording your deed County	.75
	5.75
Money you sent	1.50
	4.25

The balance due you see is $4.25 which you should send to the Clerk W.G. Long Adel Dallas County Iowa Money is so scarce here I have had hard work to stamp and record my own deeds Stanton has not sent me a cent and I will not record his deed I send him word today have not seen him since you was here The mistake we madeyou "must,, correct as I said before I had not seen the mistake until you spoke of it I am satisfiedo there was a mistake We are all well at present Mother the same Mud I did get to Adel and back in 2 dys time
Yours J.B. Mills

142. Boonsboro Iowa April 9th 1871

Dear brother I take the present time to let you know that we are all reasonable well Mother has had very good health this winter I fetched her over here between 3 and 4 weeks ago She says that she wants to go back to Ind sometime in May and she wants you to send her money to go home on and to get herself a few things I sold my new house about 1 month ago to Franklins partner for $ 550 I got $ 250 down the balance in yearly payments with 10 percent interest I have contracted for 60 A of breaking at $3.33 cts per A and will be ant to build and move on it in the fall We are living in a rented house at $4 per month You and I were looking over my land when I was there and I have not as much timber as I had though(t) I had the truth of it is I havent as much as I ought to have If I was able I would try to buy ten acres more of you but it is no use to think of it now We had a very strong wind here all day yesterday It tore the roof of a part of the new brick block and stripped some of the tin off the dome of the C.H. besides considerable other damage Spring has started very early here and a great deal of garden is made already wheat is all sowed it has been very dry also it is considerable colder since the wind yesterday
Write soon Yours S.T. Brumfield.

See nex page for continuation

142 Cont.
(The following is on a separate sheet and secrecy is asked)

Strother you had better Coax Uncle John to stay in Ohio where he has relations able and willing to to take care of him Amanda got very tired of him when he was here and when she would keep him no longer I loaned him money and sent him to you thought you might send him on to Ohio when you get ready He came here with about $500 and was strapped weeks before he left and if he comes again it will be the same thing over and he will soon have nothing

(On the back) dont let him see this)

Yours &

S.J. Brumfield.

143.

June 22nd 1871
Green Oak, Fulton County

Dear Uncle and Aunt I know embrace the opportunity of writing you a fiew lines to let you know how we carry on Grandmother is at our house Uncle Wills (Clenny probably) came here last Saturday and stayed till monday well we are all tolerabel well but ma she is not very well I hope that these fiew Lines may find you all well. granmother That Should come here after her or at Bunkerhill and if you cant she is a comeing by her self Gran mother dreds going by her self well we had a nice rain last Saturday harvest has come on Corn looks nice and it looks some like rain this evening. and if you come you can come In a mild (within a mile) of our house The name of the station is Waggoners there is a saw mill there to Gran mother said if you could send a letter why send It. well I must close write soon From Mollie Brumfield (d. Hiram Brumfield)

Strother and Luisa Brumfield

Oh yes I forgot one thing Gran ma is a going to Start next Thursday.

144. Lakeville Ind. July 25th

Dear brother & Sister.

We received your card of the 17th in due time we have been calculating on coming to to Mothers anniversary if Elizabeth is able(Sarah Brumfield was born in Shenadoah County Va. July 31st 1801. This would be her seventieth birthday celebration. RCB) She is poorly this morning having a weak spell now she has not road 10 miles in a buggy at one time since she came from in there last November it is her age that troubles her If we come it will be Friday or Saturday next if Jo & Mary Docks come have them to come by here when they go home

WmClenny

145. Clenny and Eldred (Letter Head)

Lakeville Nov. 1st 1872.

Respectéd Brother and Sister we got home all safe but lay on the R Road all night cause two freight trains run togather We foud all well at home two deaths in the neighborhood while we was gon. it is very dry here but little rain here in Oct Corn gathering is progressing finely here the R Road agents have rented an office in here and Stablish there head quarter for this County and have a corps of engineers setting grade stakes expecting to cut the Road out this winter thru the County. Pleas find your note enclosed We are all well

145 Cont.
Hope this finds you the same

Yours as ever Wm E. Clenny to
S. & L. Prumfield.

146. April 19th 1872 .

S. Prumfield and Family:

Your letter of the 19th containing Eighty dollars came to hand yesterday. Your desire therein contained is fully verefied by us enjoying the very best of health and we always have the same desire for you, in our hearts but when we remember the damp atmosphere that you are exposed to we must acknowledge that our hopes are some shaken and that ~~xx~~ our desire for your welfare must be stronger for you than yours for us can be ~~for~~ because of ~~a~~ the same consideration we having a light dry atmosphere which accounts for Mother Prumfields good health while here which she knows to be true by her much increased appetite . Uncle John Prumfield (Brother to Jesse, Sr.) is settinghere by my side while I am writing thinks I our fine rich land the same as all persons that come from your and Ohios poor dominions and take a look and go back and then are uneasy until they return and then they have to say "We can treathe easier here than there,, I suppose you know all those items about Iowa and will remember them. one more if I had a certain 85 acres of land we would not trade even with you for all yours in Hoosier Socham Dr. Stanton has 20 acres of wheat sowed and they have lived through the ordeal and is plowing for corn and they are all well especially Himself Since he cast off his Boon fever and Ague & Jobs plague (Boils) A.D. Mathis are well I expect. Rosa some better for sure and they do feel glad as one can see by their expressions. Next Monday Job Hastie and Family starts for Colorado He went to dig gold His respects to you Wm Ridrow Jr was here the 1st of March He went home with him and Mary got a letter noting the death of Hannah Gibbs and Amys return here soon Mr Laraway bought 80 acres of land here(N.E. 4 miles) for $700.00 a team at 300 ~~a~~ bal cash Some improvements with a poor house&c Buyers has been scarce here for a year the improvements of the country still continues the Settlers are beginning to help themselves Some building new houses some buying new machinery for farming it is astonishing to see how much of this is sold in Perry that is imported besides a plow manufactory with fine hands and not a Plow on hand our selves have bought $ 75.00 worth and want more have counted only plows The next can we get it we have 35 hogs 14 that ought to weigh 400 a head next fall at 3½ would bring $196.00 and if our bad luck has passed we can do better because we shall have about 35 smaller ones 25 of which we have now and three sows more to come in Now we have two cows one other young one and one yearling and one young calf The first year the grass hoppers eat us out and we lost cow and was without a dollar and the 18th of next September will be five years since we drove in the bushes without a shingle to cover us from the inclemency of the weather And Louisa you may not weep over our extreme poverty though we do not feel but our needs are many and pressing and when we look at your request to spend a $100.00 to visit we are scared nevertheless we would see much pleasure no doubt in compliance but we must have a little time to recruit our much vanquished Pocket Book. This house must be finished next month and a barn builed and a house next spring besides other incidentals of the farm.

April 20th Mary and I have just returned from Perry and I did want to have this done to mail this evening but could not. ~~This~~

146 Cont.

This is the first time she has been there shopping as they call it Saw Alfred Mathis they are as usual in health I must say Mary took five dozen eggs I took half bushel of onions got 25 cts Mary got 55 cts (Total 80 cts) now is that heavy business let us look at the chance for laying aside a little money Flour #3.50 per hundred wt Coffee 3¼ lbs for a dollar sugar white 6c beef steak 10 to 12½ Beef on foot 3.25 Pork 3.25 Corn 18 as good as I ever looked at Wheat 1.00 if you buy of grain dealers t it is 1.25 Potatoes .30 We expect to commence plowing for corn next week the season is a little backward I suppose you are nearly done but we will measure corn with you any time between the 1st of June and Christmas or any thing that grows or is an annual
Today I mailed two papers for you
That money was a great favor to us and you will rest easy on the balance
Saturday I saw A.F. Ann and Sarah He says Rosa is very improved in health and feels much pleased therefor as hopes rested on a very slender thread and was getting weaker the treatment I have written in another place The girls and families are well Lide lives on Sand Durs and Lib on Flood Creek Sat has a nice place.
This Sunday morning 21st is cold and chilly and with a wee bit of snow on the 15th Where Martin lived in Wisconsin there fell six inches of snow and at the time his brother wrote was freezing no plowing done we could have had our corn ground all plowed if wanted it but the season will be a little late April 28th well I had almost forgotten this letter I(t) should have been to Winchester at present but I see it is not we are having a very backward spring and will not get our corn planted before the 15th of May we are not done plowing yet Mary while we was eating breakfast this morning denounced your part of the country dec(l) aring she would not live there for the best farm near the place we have Just received 20 kinds of seeds from New York and must go to planting them. Lettuce peas and Onions look fine Gooseberry & Current and other Shrobbery are leafing finelyand --

Well now we have taken a look at the Prairie fire which is a grand sight there it cannot do any injury Well we have taken another look and is Still a grand Spectacle Uncle John is extra good company as soon as He sits down He is alseep He talks much of going to Oregon and take a homestead I think he appears to be nearer the end of time than a homestead He cannot earn his board but thinks he must work for us because He has spend all his money He is grubbing. Good evening

J.B. Mills.

(Note Uncle John Brumfield was at this time 64 years old)

147.

Sept 30th /72.

Your letter came last Friday and I thought of writing to you before We are in good health at present and those that have good healthy food put up in good order and plenty of it are generally well . But those who is to stingy and poor to live are more or less sick. (well we I are not sick) Though I did (eat) a spoonful of peas to much in the summer have not any desire for any since. Stanton has a new waggon Since Now as other let a wheel fall on Manda and broke her collar Bone and bruised her some but not seriously hurt . Our corn is in order for gathering I have hear(d) of some corn in Perry for show 6 ears weighed 7 lbs I have several thousand lbs of just such corn So also has some of the Neighbors Such as has come to their senses and quit believing that nothing but yankee corn would ripen here the first frost came in the night of the 26th inst and corn was ripe

147. Cont 70 bushels to the acre and was planted May 22 how is that for Iowa We have more Potatoes and nicest ones you have seen in your life We have only 3 barrels of sorgum Syrup give half for making Stanton had 65 galons and now working for Bil Moore on his brick house Hiram worked out your Road tax we have not got the receipt yet around $ 3.45. Now as soon as you can come to the balance on that note do so as I have been paying 30 pr ct on $ 30.00 for a year and would like to get out of the scrape sometime and we feel like getting a little land if possible. I believe land will gradually rise in price here and never go down again. In haste for town My toes are sore reaching up to our high corn "fact,, A.P. Mathis sold for $10 000 or is about to so I heard yesterday

Yours &c more anon J.P. M.(ills)

148. Home ~~April 18th 1878.~~
Nov. 14th 1872.

~~Brumfield and family.~~
~~My letter of the 18th containing Eight Dollars came to hand yesterday.~~

Dear Brother and Sister.

I thought I could not work and I would write you a few lines. We are in reasonable health at present Came from Rudrows day before yesterday and the Family was in common health but Ezras wife died while we was there leaving a little child one week old and one 1 year old to be cared for by Wm & Mary I got 50 more apple trees got a bill of your tax $15.19 no penalty until the first of February If you want anything done with your field you ought to have answered me before as this is one time of the year that men look for land to farm perhaps if you take part of the produce Wheat would suit you best as corn is expensive to market I could not handle it in wheat because of the seed which would cost in cash not less than $1.20 corn aught (here) to be fed to cattle or hogs We sold $ 160.00 of hogs this season and have 50 head left worth more money and lots of corn left to feed them and have not fed more than 75 bushels of new corn have very little old corn left this is a winter day and not one half of the corn in the crib we have 20 loads of 25 bushels each over Beaver to gather yet & about 20 acres here around the house No trick to raise corn here only plow the ground good and in the right time and then good seed and your corn is nearly raised but one man can raise more than he can gather without cold fingers . We called at old Jonnies Kasse had been sick and the old man shows old age but clever as ever and mind sound always glad to see us That farm of (yours) not sold yet A.P. Mathis did not sell could not give immediate posession Very little land here changing hands at present Bob Mastie is in the Gold mines his wife is here in Perry will take his farm again in March 1874 I forgot one item Rosetta Mathis is going to Sochum with Henry Garretts widow if not gone already(I fear to never return) I have just paid $30.00 tax part of which was drawing 66 pr ct 2 inches of snow fell last night and still falling

Yours as ever J.P. Mills.

(Probably a Cousin to Strother Brumfield)

149. Dec. 6th - 1872

Dear Brother and Sister Yours of the 25th & 28th Nov came to hand day before yesterday and was glad to hear that you was in good health and we let you know that we are enjoying the same favor. Have been gathering corn today but it commenced snowing and we quit at 25 bushels about noon weather very moderate for the season and has been very fine the past week we have about 1500 bushels of corn gathered about 40 more here and 7 acres over on your farm making very near 2000. 50 Hogs and Pigs Our March pigs will weigh about 225 now just common fare we have not a chance to push pigs yet with cooked feed Stanton beats he says he is getting 90 bushels per acre (I must get my specs) 1 000 off of 15 acres besides sorghum potatoes sweet potatoes 2 bushels of beans that I saw cannot tell how much more and besides all this he has a womnn that beats Hell with her tongue He is doing well no mistake. Have not seen any of A.Ps lately(Mathis)Expect them here soon Our school commences next Monday then Hi learns me to do battle to the corn field Let me say here I beleive our corn is the best here this seasonall over a field that I ever gathered in and only 10 cts per bushel cash Hogs gross # $ 3.25 11 cases of epizootic in Perry one fatal the weather has been very favorable the past week one case this side of there is about well without Medacine said to have been very maligmant Simply by keeping the from the chill cold. Oh yes that spring appears as good as ever but many wells are but wells Water is rather scarce here though plenty in Beaver The Bridge I cannot tell about there are many Petitions in this County and the Bridge Fund is overtaxed at present. Your Tax amount I sent was taken from the tax book and ought to be exclusive of Road tax and if no mistake has occured is though I have worke mine and paid it in money but will try and get it returnd by the Township I expect old Perk will charge you a dollar for that was one of his charges against the estate Land sales are very dull here at present Uncle John Brumfield left here last June went to Boonsboro Husked corn for a farmer near there for the Husks and sold them to Franklin for matresses and then left for Ohio and arrived there safe so we heard. The Roads is better than any Pike I ever saw. Rose Mathis I supposeis in your part of the County Rudrows are well we suppose Amy Vandergrift wrote us a letter since we was there She stated she thought Ezras little baby would not live long Poor old Horace Greely after undoing the good of a long lifetime appears to have suddenly been removed ,. How foolish some smart men can be. I did not win or lose in the election as I had (no) wagers out but if I had I should have won We had a small Social Party here last night Mam is opposed to dancing which would have pleased the young Peoples Hi is Violining Mary wants her Mother to hear from us occasionally and says tell her if she was here now she could have comfort if she was satisfied to be here We have the house nicely plastered and a good stove and plenty of wood and plenty to eat and drink with some variety and her selling $ 10.00 worth of eggs and butter occasionally help out our finances considerably instead of buying such things as we have had to do She sold 67 lbs of butter lately has about 20 more to go soon from 2½ cows She dresses her old Roosters and ships them off at 6 cts pr lb and has quilted and is quilting one old Stile (comfortable) at this moment by tieing I sold all the wood that I could cut las winter at $6.00 pr cd could have $50 or more if I had had it Sold 4 hogs that weighed 1769 lbs at 4 cts pr lb have one more about 600 lbs for market and 16 more could have had 5 cts for but would spoil our stock 3 more that will make 300 soon. Tell Mother Brumfield (Mary says) that she has made a new faether bed and 3 pillows and has 26 ducks left Do you want to come over and have a roast

149 Cont.
Paper to small Yours as ever J.B. & Mary Mills.

(The following is written around the edges of the paper)
Boys there is a rare sport here, from the last of october till cold weather shooting wild ducks and geese and then catching musk rats might take 1 000 pelts worth 1c cts flesh good for ----- ?

The snow blizzard with only ¼ inch 9 oclock PM Hi is at singing school and I am going to Bed.

I thought that I wrote you before that we was at Rudraws four weeks ago but Mary says I did not but so it was and Ezras wife died while we was there and left two children one , one year the other but one week old that was the one Amy spoke of in her letter to us she was Watson Slaughters daughter Wat and the Hulings are in Kansas Mary wants to know (where) you haul water from.

150. Perry Dallas Co Iowa April 20" 73.

Dear brother the present date finds us in reasonable health and we hope that you are enjoying the same blessings I was over to Marys today and she says that you want a letter from me and I suppose you forget that you owe me a letter (but that dont amount to anything) and I will try to write you one The spring here has been rather cool and backward last week it drizzled from sunday evening till thursday morning and a little snow mixed along with it I had my wheat all sowed before that and all of it is up and begins to show quite a distance Some of it was sowed about the 20th of March I have in 22 acres Some are not done sowing yet We have about 42 acres under cultivation and will try to have some more broke this summer I am putting my fence on the line between you and me this spring building post and rail I had my land surveyed the line between ~~xxxxx~~ you and me is about where I thought it was I am also fencing pasture for my hogs claves horses &c in the South East corner containing 8 or 10 A I dont think I le work much at my trade this summer I find so much to do at home we sold 11 bushels of wheat the other day at 95 and some corn at 15 in the winter we sold three loads of corn for fuel

22nd Snowing this morning as though it meant business I f I were able I de like to buy 10 or 15 acres more timber of you but I am not able and besides I have plenty for the present purposes
No more at present S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

~~xxx~~ Tell Mother and Martha Jane how de do for me. S.J. B.

151. Jan 3rd 1874.

Dear Uncle and Aunt I am well and prospering finely and hope you are the same Father and Mother have gone down to Adel to stay a day or two with Lida Lida and her man have moved to Adel and he is working at his trade which is Dentistry he came up tuesday to Perry and made $19.00 in two days we had fine times Christmas Rudrows came up Christmas morning and Uncle Stanton and Jane came down and we had a fine time Rudrows and I went up to Mathises in the eavning and had a regular hossier meeting I am going to school at present our Teacher is not very good but we are getting along very well for all that I will

151 Cont. to show how much we have gained in the last six years Six years ago the 21st of last September we pitched our tent under some oak trees with a span of mules two cows and a new wagon and soon had all of our goods brought from moving on a ---------- (there is apparently some of the letter missing here) which was very few after the freight was paid we had two dollars and a half left to build a house on you can guess we did not get a house very soon with that amount of money We went to work with a will and soon had enough potatoes some wheat and corn and a little more money then to work we went again to build some kind of a house to live in which was soon completed and was 12x12 feet square and we moved in to our mantion the 21st of November but we had several fine little snows before we got in the house Father went to Boon to work and just made a good living and that was all in the spring we lost both of our cows and we trade off our wagon to William Budrow and got $25.00 to boot we bought cow and a calf and lost the calf afterwards the same spring we did not raise anything so we had to buy again bought a couple of pigs and eat them in the winter the second spring we bought a couple more of pigs and dispensed with them in the same way the third season we done pretty well and raised some 700 bushels of corn and a good calf-----

(The letter ends here. It would be interesting to know of the further progress of the Mills family. This letter was apparently from Hiram Mills, son of Joe and Mary Mills, for his brother Cliftnn had died previously)

152.

March 7th 1874.

Dear Brother: Yours of Feb 4th came to hand in due time and I should have wrote you before but for attending a series of Meetings at our school house by Elder Simons of the Baptist Church of Perry Mary and I have been to Adel returned last Sunday Lides family well also Budrows Stantons have the measels all doing well One person died with them here I guess Stanton became disgusted with Methodism and joined the Baptists Jane would but they have an Organ in use in the church Lord!!! if that was all her sins or mine I should feel proud (you will seehow nervous my hand is I feel like closing here) yesterday afternoon the first rain for four months and was attended with Thunder and lightning followed by snow Hail & then wind which blew all night and until this afternoon A fine day but I am staying in the house because of a severe cold contracted by sweating and cooling off sudden The corn business I closed up at 40 cts pr bu and hauled 2 loads to town Sold kept the balance for ourselves at the average weight of the 2 loads all making 125 & 5/8 bushels In a few days more will scatter some wheat on your farm & 10 acres of oats and as much corn Mary makes butter that commands 30cts pr lb We are in reasonable health I must Stop you cannot read such writing

Respectfully yours

J.B. Mills

Was at Mathisses they were all well and making money a fine lot of fat cattle Sold at 4 3/4 deliver the 1st of May

Endorsement on your note is as follows
Feb 12th 1874 Recd on the within Seventy four 25/100 dollars.

153.

Perry June 2nd 1874

Dear Brother & Family I thought a few lines would not come amiss

though of not much importance We are all in our usual health these old Machines are feeling the worse for hard toil in years past & being considerably worn if we had some of the young grease that has been misapplied to oil our joints feel as though we Should feel much younger but to be careless and wasteful so is our youth If we could know all our events of life forty years in futurity we could avoid much affliction But as Old Father Harlan Said it cannot be known until we arrive at the period then it is to late & tell young people the truth they cannot appreciate it. Our crops look reasonable well considering the drouth we have not had a rain that thoroughly wet the ground for twelve months & but a small proportion for 2 years compared with the average I wrote you that your field & mine was joined by water so it was but the melted snow water run off because the frost was in the ground Ice brake in the creek fromed jams overflow was the result only 24 hours no rain since ground open and loose very dry . But last evening the thickning clouds & our rheumatic limbs indicated rain and at dark it commenced moderately and continued all night & until 9 oclock AM & appearance of more the ground is but slightly moistened not more than 2 inches deep but we are thankful Wheat & Oats are in good condition at present General G.D. Hendricks of Eaton Ohio has been Spending nearly a week with us He is an old acquaintance of John and Henry Neff & many others of Winchester was born at Conder ? knows nearly all in Preble Co Ohio Pleasant with Him He is General Agent for a large amount of non resident land in this and other counites in this State left with me several thousand acres to sell from $10.00 to 15.00 pr acre Your road tax is $6.30 Wheat here is 90.88x100 Corn .50 Oats 40 Potatoes $1.00 a $1.50 Coffee 25 a 33 Sugar Standard A .11 Eggs .10 Butter .14 Stantons baby is sick (cutting teeth) quite sick Henry Cylers cousin lives 2 miles SE of here in sight Thomas Gilmore has move here have seen him once has in a crop. (Note this Thomas Gilmore would be the grandson of Ann Brumfield(dt of David) and her husband John Gilmore, through their son George Gilmore and his wife Jane Lyons) Dr and Lide was here Sunday was well Rudrows are well but Will he is married Mathisses health as usual fencing in all his land We have a little boy Willie Cutler (grandson) keeping for his health. Our best respects to all

J.P. Mills and Mary Mills.

154. Perry Dec. 16th 1874.

Dear Brother & Sister.
Yours of the 1st inst came to hand in three days The sad news of bereavement of our Relatives had been received in advance of yours letter having been dated Nov 25th Wm & Elizabeth They have our most sincere sympathy also our acquaintances of your Vicinity. (Note: this bereavement would be the death of Sarah Jane Branson, dt of Elizabeth (Brumfield, Branson) Clenny by her first marraige. This girl married 5-25-1871 to Geroge F Cook at Lakeville Ind. She died 11-24-1874 and is buried at Lakeville Cemetery at Lakeville.)

We are enjoying good health except Rheumatism We are both afflicted in one shoulder each I met with a Mishap this noon I would go to your farm and build a pen of some Stakes not in use & set my chicken trap on it as Mary was desirous to have some about half way sliped and fell and struck my hip on a frozen knob thought I would not reach the House can hardly walk at present (weign 185 lbs.) I asked you to look over the amount between us & see if there was any mistake & if any report the same to me for correction. I am pleased to know of giving you full satisfaction

about your grain had this season been favorable you would have been out of debt here with your corn left which I have cribbed here. If xxx I could have looked through futurity to the present time your farm would have been twice its present size Louisa says am I a Granger The name is objectionable I belong to the Patrons of Husbandry ---- and sold my hogs gross for $ 5.20 pr 100 lbs 4700 $244.40 From the action of the Chicago Board of trade it is inferred there may be a corner on corn here after the Pork is about all in it last from one to 3 weeks watch & let me know I am not in a Hurry You are ahead of us in Sleighing Snowed a little last night going fast sweat running down my face in streams I wish not for snow -- caused my fall this noon. Tell Mary before she gets them curious fits to prepare for the(m) Get a little Fifty that is good for fits Hi is going to town Hve to Stop I would write more dark

Respects to all J.P. & M. Mills

155. Home Perry Nov. 16th /74.

Mr Drumfield SirI have been trying to make out a statement of our accounts this morning My Brain seems thick and will refer to you Please find note inclosed have charged 8 pr ct interest the same I offered you as a discount

Balance on note ----------	$ 31.35
Interest ----------	32.03
Road tax 2 years ----------	12.30
	$ 75.68
Your wheat ----------	21.76
Oats ----------	11.97
	$ 33.75

you are aware that I sold the samll grain because it got wet got 68c for the wheat3 cts above price Oats 25 I may be required to make a new fence on the east of the field next spring thought I had better make the posts this winter and if they season a year before setting they will be worth as much more for lasting in the ground Expected to do some gathering of corn with six hands and 2 teams but rain commenced falling at 3 oclockthis morning and continued at this time 10 oclock Sold my hogs for $5.20 pr 100 gross average 290 I guess I sold too soon have 24 left & out of meat have some tonight I think Louisa did you ascertain by His picture if his mustashe was painted on or real Mrs Mary Mills slipt off to Adel and bought a new cook stove for $44.00 Come home sent me for it Met Mary Rudrow talked with her all in reasonable health I have been appealed to for help from Grasshoppers eatin Kansas by an honerable acquaintance He says he has propetty that he cannot leave only asks the loan of $ 35.00 do want to help him but am hard up We must help Hi pay for his land I wish your bottom over the Beaver was broke up I believe near 100 bushels of corn could be raised on it Will plant the whole of your field in corn next season with another (note this letter has not been copied with sequence of pages as intended)

Dear Brother & Sister. Yours containing the news of the death of George Holcroft was recd some time ago and have been as now not much to write about at present We still have good health Mary and I some afflicted with reumatism which does not affect out health otherwise Saw uncle Jonny a week ago Still on his pins Some complaining Jolly as ever dont like salary steal credit Mobiler Swindle and many such dishonorable acts of the Administration Party Martin Slaughter was to start for your part of the Country

last Monday Take good care of him we turn him over to you Hoosiers----

Such things have become suspicious since the lady in the next Pew dropped one of her eyebrows & a young getleman thought it was one of his Mustaches Just try and appreciate his bad feelings and warn your boys Fowls here have not been very profitable this Season dying with cholera Hogs eating them & forming a bad habit of eating Marys ducks & Turkeys & my Pigs loss $ 200.00 I marked your note canceled If it falls into any body else hands all right Respects and friendship to all J.P. & Mary Mills

PS Mary cant come this season---- Mary.

156. Perry Iowa Nov. 21" 1875

Dear brother we are well at present and experiencing some pretty cold weather This morningWe got in our last load of corn yesterday Have about 1200 bushels left after fatting 17 hogs pretty fair corn,only a little chaffy or light my circumstances are such that I had better not think of buying any of your timberat present I asked an agent yesterday in town if he had any chances of selling timber and he said he had his name is Harlan you can seehis name in the Chief if you take it yet I cant tell you which is the best agent for I dont know but I can tell you one that helped sell that land to Martin his name is Cordell the other man that got the other $100 does not live here nowthe reason that I spoke to Harlan is that I thought he was doing a good business and seems tobe a gentleman He said for you to send your price on the timber with the land and without it as some persons might want land and all Send it either to him or me I haved tried to sell your timber and some men have said they would come to see it but never have There has been lots of land sold around here this season but people seem to care but little for timber. prairie improved has sold at from $18.50 to $20.00 pr acre most everybody here burn ~~wood~~ Coal it is 12½ cts pr bushel at the bank 4 or 5 miles fromhere 100 bushels lasts our school 4 months in winter and enough left for cool days in summer and fall school We have 8 or 9 months of school here in the year My advice to you would be to sell your timber with out the land for if you keep the placethe land would come in good play for pasture

Yours truly S.J. Brumfield .

157. Lakeville, Ind., Nov. 23rd 1875.

Dear Brother & Sister: after some delay I take the present opertunity to let you know that we are all well hope this may fidd you the same we got home the next friday after leaving Winchester found our Hicory nuts and feathers at Plymouth all rite Heliza came home in a few hours after we got here, I went back with her the next tuesday and mad arrangements for her to go a year and also for Mary Clenny, Melissa well pleased with school, my renters expect to finish gathering corn today some soft corn haft assort it so it will keep I send you the deed also $1.35 get it recorde and take care of it

William E Clenny to S & L. Brumfield

158. (A Post card) Perry Iowa Sept 7" 1876

S. Brumfield Dear brother a man that Ive been working for some wanted me to write and ask you if you would sell him one A of timber without the land I sent him to Joe but promised to write to you too I dont think that you had better sell so small an amount that way.

S.J. Brumfield.

159. Perry Iowa Nov. 29th 1876

Dear brother Since writing to you last Monday 2 men came to me and wanted to see your timber We went over it I told them that you was asking $30 per A for 10 A on the north end of the 60 A and they did not seem to like the looks of it there was not enough gott timber on to suit them when we came out to the next 20 they took a fancy to the corner of timber on it and I think you could sell it to them at a fair price and keep the land there is about 20 oak trees on it I dont think there is 2 A of it I told them that I thought it wort $65.00 just the timber and I believe they would give it by having that corner cut off the field could be made square and it would help the looks of the place my advice would be to sell it I am well acquainted with one of the men he allows to fence a 40 between here and twon in the spring I dont believe they would cut across the line or take that that dont belong to them in fact I beleeve the time has past for stealing timber around here I think they would not want a very long time to get it off 6 or 12 months perhpas Write and let me know what you think of it

Yours truly
S(tanton) J. Brumfield

160. Perry March 14th 1876.

Dear Brother & Sister I expect you have been looking for a line from me for some time I have been waiting to see if Something would turn favorable for the Sale of your timber but alas nothing yet. My man Shin would have bought the third five acres from the North end of the 80 but I told him I could not sell it as you had not ordered it. That 10 acres has not any oak timber on it and that is what (is) wanted I will say again that if it was mine I would sell any amount any where of the 40 of timber but first put it in shape to show the 10 could not have been got at this winter because of the water and ice I sold one acre of mine for $70.00 cash there have been thousands of posts hauled from the Desmoin River this winter and a poor time to haul at that A man living there says they are cutting off the timber fast Just think 12 miles of country up & down the river to be fenced out of that Desmoin timber cannot last long. You say 2 men join and but it (the ten acres) a Stranger comes here he wont hunt for another I expected to sell 5 acres to 2 men Brothers & would if I could have moved 3 or 4 oak trees on it. I tried to tell you I had an agent in Perry to send any man to me that wanted timber and J.D. Hendricks who is selling thousands of acres of land all over this State He put 5 000 acres in my hands to sell have sold some in this vicinity This winter equals yours for mud This winter at this time we are having a Severe storm from N.E. of wind Snow hail & Rain Beaver(creek) for the 4/5ths of the time this winter has been impassible reaching from my fence to yourn and ice all the distance from 2 to 5 inches thick I have a lot of stove wood under it out of sight I could not show much more than ¼ of your land now and dont say much Dr Shoemaker*(Albert) has gone to Colorado Mary left yesterday on the cars for Adel David Hastie has bought Bob's farm will move in a couple of weeks You know the Hill south of here it is to be broke this season I can count 3 000 acres of land South and East of us within 2¼ that has been sold in 12 months You would not know which way to start for Boone there is so much improvement We areand have been enjoying good health this winter I feel I would like to go and kill and Scalp about 20 Sioux Injuns as my share of business if they Raid this and we have time will let you know

Yours as ever J.B. Mills.

*Albert Shoemaker a son of Standon Brumfield's wife before her m. to Stanton

161. Lancaster, Ohio. Nov 6th 1876

Strother Brumfield
Winchester, Indiana

Dear Sir Your letter of the 24th xxx inst was recd about a week ago and as Mother wishes me to write a reply to the same I will do so. Your letter found us all well as usual Was glad to hear from you why dont you come in and see us. It would only take you a few hours to make the trip In regard to Uncle John Mother says that Uncle Thomas Hunter and us have kept him about 4 years betweenh the two families ~~and tried every~~ and tried every way we could possibly think of to have him save his money. but he would listen to no one. As soon as he would get a little money he would take a trip to Kansas or elsewhere and be back here in ten days or two weeks xxxxx without money Mother told him time and again what would be the result the way he was doing that he would be without money His friends about here have done all they will do for him What he is he alone is to blame and he will have to stand it. If his friends there are so situated that they cannot keep him let him go to the poor farm Weh had a trial of him and do not want another . Times are very dull here and hard . Money hard to get hold of . Mother talked of paying you a visit this fall but she is afraid to start this late in the season on account of cold weather She thinks she will likely go out there in the Spring I hope you will excuse bad writing and mistakes as I had a very poor pen to write with Write again and I will write you a more interesting letter What is population of Winchester

I am Sir very respectfully yours
L.H. Hunter, Lancaster, Ohio.

162. Lakeville Ind., Jan 29th 1877.

Mr S, Brumfield

Dear Brother wereceived a card from Molly saying that Mother was verry sick I tellegraph to you from Lapaz to let us know if *Mother was to die I will now say that there is a telegraph office at Lapaze I have made arrangements with a friend at Lapaze to have the dispatch sent to me if one comes We shall look for a letter from you soon Sledding here ever since the first of Dec. last but is getting very soft today We are all well.

* Note: Sarah Brumfield d-1887-12-9 Wm.Clenny to Strother Brumfield.

163. March 4th 1877.
Perry Iowa.

Dear brother After a long silence I again have the opportunity to write to you that is I mean I have the will to write to you for I find that I am very careless about writing letters We are all well at present and hope you are the same We are sorry to hear of Mothers sickness but suppose she is better before this The health of the community here seems to be good We have had delightful weather here for a month the last day or two is has been snowing some and this morning we hitched onto the sled and went to church I built one house in the fine weather that we have been having It was 14 x 22 I finished and put it up for $ 130.00 I make considerable furniture but dont often get any money for it I've hired a hand to tend the place at $18.00 a month for 8 months There is considerable fear of grasshoppers here the next season The ground is pretty well filled with eggs. Uncle Bill and Aunt Hannah Robertson were to see us the first part of the winter .

Yours truly, S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

(Note in Indian's hand: "Must be Mary Janes folk." This refers to Aunt Hannah and Uncle Bill Robertson)

164. Sat June 23rd 1877

This day mailed a lett er to you at 2 Oclock P.M. 4 P.M. rained fast for four hours Sunday 24th clear Monday 25th 6 A.M. very heavy rain had to breakfast by lamplight the bottom will overflow cannot ford now nor for a week past . It rainy more this season than I ever knew If we live through three seasons of wet and one of the- -ed with Hoppers and not get in debt and pay taxes we will do well Pharaoh's Plague are working on the corn some but the weeds are plenty and they are being used up for food Cauliflower, Cabbage, Beets, Peppers, Beans , radishes and Lettuce disappear before them They are eating our Potatoes some, all vines suffer. Some fields of wheat are stripped to bare poles Rain held up a little at 9 00 though not clear Fish for this day cannot do any thing else 100 the result 20 lbs in all.
Clark Sun. Had a very nice set of Timothy grass North of your field and not a blade left is now in corn and being skinned the Bottom has millions of them dont think an overflow will be a good thing and drown them because they are excellent swimmers Mrs Mary Mills and myself set the hopper trap in the garden and drove the varmints into the Bait which is kerosene floating on water which when they jump into they yield up the ghost though they may jump out yet they are done for . Ive leached from ashes as is used for soap does the job for them the same Mary has a new way of keeping the Hoppers from eating vegetables by a very little keresene on them which kills them(the vegetables) In an article in the Chief of the 14th inst says the Hoppers are reasons &c now suppose the editor(who will weigh 200 lbs) should jump into kerosene and then out again and a trap of proportionate size be dr awn over him would he be blind I think likely
Saturday June 30th.
Friday we had a fine rain accompanied with intense lighning and terrible thunder and a strong wind Sunday evening we are having a blessed shower at this time Thornburg has bought a lot of old hardware in partnership with his son in-law he has been living at Earlham 2 years July 30th this month has been some more wet than usual Aug 15th a very heavy rain the creek has been and is high extending from my field to yours possible only by boat Sept 1st Beaver again passable 15th again raining heavy at N.W. You have hoped for corn enough to pay your taxes five days is all the time that could have been employed to plant and attend a crop this season without rather more danger than I could face though if I could have planted and tended it would have yealed perhaps 60 & perhpas 80 bushels pr acre 30 bushels is not extravagent for it this season as other corn has grown Stanton has it nearly plowed for another season had it been put in oats it would have raised about 2 000 bushels Wheat this season is good here I hear of one man that raised 80 bushels pr acre had only 60 acres Several have raised 40 I commence to write this for myself but by taking off a page finish for you You can see by my letter this and the Chief how the season has been here dark & lightening and rainny Jane is mad because Stanton has taken that field so I hear that is nothing you know Tom Gilmore told me that Wallman Brumfield has moved to Boone County Ia. All well as usual I have been some unfortunate this summer with some broken bones hand bone of the little finger and a rib not sound yet and am not a Green Backer

Yours J.P. Mills .

165. Perry Iowa Aug 19" 1877.

Dear brother we received yours of the 29th ult we are all well hope you are the same We have been plowing some on your land but it is so dry that we were obliged to quit and wait for rain we have to harrow the weeds down before we can plow it at all successfully we plowed 4 days with 2 teams Plowed 10 or 12 Acres I suppose that you knew that it was lying idle this season I had some notion of trying to put some of it in last spring when I seen that Joe was not going to but the future looked a little dark on account of the grass hoppers and the creek was up some about the time I should have been at work at it so between the two I give it up The creek is fordable lots of places when it is fordable we cross it on a straight line between here and your field if I tend your ground next year the creek shall not hinder me Hiram could have put in some of your ground last spring but he dont always do as Joe wants him to and visa versa I am willing to give it up any time you sell and I am paid for my plowing and of cours I dont care which party pays it it is worth $ 25.00 pr acre or perhaps more Pinkney Mathis said to me the other day that it would be hard to tell just what it is worth a farm a good one of 160 A 70 improved sold xxx a few days ago for $20.00 an acre and the purchaser builds the man a $1500 house (worth $ 1 000) as part pay the only farm (except one) that has sold close around here this summer the other one traded at about $35.00 per A for town property It seems like now is about as poor a time as you could offer your land for sale but if you will sell I would advise you to advertise it in the Perry Chief Something like this fashion A farm for sale with 50 A of good timber joining . it might be if some Hoosier or Buckeye immigrants came in here this fall and see it in the paper they would think it would just suit them an Iowa farmer would just as leave have no timber there is one man in Perry that speculates in land some I will try to get him to make an offer on yours next time I see him Sorry to say I am not able to buy it havent done over $20.00 worth of carpenter work this summer nothing to do now we had 16½ bushels of wheat to A 43 of oats Wheat is 75 cts oats 15 cts

Yours truly S.J. Brumfield

166. August 11 - 1878.

Dear brother I wrote you a card two weeks ago but have received no answer . I thought at the time that we could have threshed our wheat by this time but owing to rainy weather we have postponed threshing for two or three weeks. We finished stacking yesterday. What do you want done with your share If you want to hold it I have granery room for it the weather has been so unsettled here that we dont know what wheat is going to be worth I think they have been paying 75 cts part of the time You are in debt to me for building fence $28.00 I would like to have it or most of it soon as we thresh I owe you three or four dollars for wood that I cut and havent hauled yet We will make some hay on your land we done two or three days work cutting grubs off it last spring and I think it will be worth the hay to make it the first year but after that you ought to have one third I will try to get somebody to mow what I dont want so as to have it all cut over which will kill the weeds and make it better for next year Henry Trotter says it is no use takling trade with you if an even trade is the best youll do We received a Winchester paper yesterday and read the account of your surprise party Mary and myself would both have liked to have been there but it was impossible (almost)

166 Cont. I suppose you want me to tend your ground next year and on that ground we will go to plowing as soon as we get through making hay. Perhaps considering that you dont take the Chief any more you haven heard that we have a baby at out house. It is girl blue eyes and red hair about two months old . If you want the Ch Chief a year again I will tell him to send it to you and make you pay him in wood next winter How does Jess like Kansas Corn will be a big crop here if nothing happens Wheat is a very poor crop oats not very good fell down a good deal Our wheat is best I know of around here

Yours truly S. J. Brumfield.

(Note!. This letter(the original) was sent to Gertrude(Brumfield) Anthony 1-1-1939 because it contained the notice of her birth by her father.)

167. Winchester Randolph Co Ind Dec 23 1872.
Strother Brumfield Winchester Indiana Dec24-1873

7-20 A.M. started to Lancaster Ohio ½ hour late ticket to Columbus $3.40. arrive at Springfield at 12 A.M. stay till 9-5 P.M. nice sleighing cold and clear (now) arrived at Columbus at dusk went 2 miles south to the H.V. Depo started to Lancaster fare 85 cts 6-55 P.M. arrived at Lancaster 8-30 P.M. Stayed at hotel close to Depo lodging and breakfast 50 cts Dec. 25th started on foot to Uncle Andrew Hunters part way across the field wind cut me been nearly froze when I got to Uncles found them well they did not know me I remembered Uncles voise as soon as he spoke Aunt Hannah I looked at her though
Saturday snowed some at night Vary cold Aunt Hannah went with me to Aunt Rachels(~~could this have been Rachel Hedges - she would a first cousin to Strother not an aunt~~) at night went to William Hunters stayed all night Snowing went to Ashury Chapple then to Joel Schwartz then to County Asylum looked through that 135 inmates got Uncle John went to James Hunters stayed all night Dec 30th this morning went to Aunt Rachels. This afternoon went to State farm come back and this evening at Aunt Rachels Quite a lively time girls vary lively Lewis Hunter and Bell was here Give Lewis $ 2.50 to get me some Hominy(Note: this Aunt Rachel must have been Rachel(Peters) Brumfield, wife of William Tallman Brumfield. William Tallman died in 1873, which explains why Strother refers to Aunt Rachel rather than Uncle William)
Dec, 31st start at 8-37 A.M. for Circlesville fare 65 cts morning more pleasant.

(Note pg 3 has been misplaced) It is copied here and its proper location indicated.)

P. # 3. ~~bey~~ she seemed vary buisy about her work. After 8 I got a little warm I seys to them I suppose you do not know me they said no they did not know me ses I you look like Aunt Hannah then she look at me and guessed several times before she guessed me Today 26th went to town with Lewis (Hunter) candy for children 20 cts in Afternoon I went with Lewis to Uncle Uncle Tommy they new me they ware well. Snowed lively this afternoon Uncle A Hunters girls names that is at home Emily & Isabel (Malinda the older)
Friday the 27 Snowing and blowing this morning

end of p. 3.

Amandas Stoutsville Circleville to Kingston This morning went

167 Cont.

to the old Brick Mill went in seen the old wheel all Torn down years ago Old house tore down some of the logs there. also some of old chimney there . looked natural. (Note Strother is talking here of the place where they lived near Kingston Ross County Ohio, before they moved to Indiana in 1836) (it possible that Jesse Brumfield built part of the old brick Mill) Went back to Black Sulpher Springs then to see Jacob Fortner Had a vary pleasant time with xxx them . then returned to Kingston in the evening quite pleasant a little snow after night turned cold by morning Thursday 2nd Cold wind in the N.W. got colder and windy. went to Chillicotha today and 5 miles N.W. of there to Mr Levi Ogdens (Note: This was husband of Eliz (Longstreet) Ogden, Strothers 1st Cousin) and back through Chillicotha and to Kingston tonight and vary cold paid Toll to Chillcotha 36 cts the other side of Chilicotha Toll 5 cts lost 5 cts give away 5 cts

Jan 3rd started for Columbus at 8-15 cold 17 D arrive at Columbus at 10 A.M. went and (visited) I.G. Gilmore B(rumfield) Gilmores son. is about 24 years old he sent me to carpet house and I bought 19 yards of carpet 7.50 45 prints 2 63 vary cold not yet away till 5-30 Noon sun coming out some

(The follo wing addresses are appended)

Mr Jacob Light Washington Ohio, On Court St opposite Court House. (Husband of Phoebe Tallman, 1st cousin to Strother B.)

I. G. Gilmore -- English Miller and Co 95 N. High St
English Miller Green & Joice 95 N. High St, Columbus
(See letters Nos 8 and 10 from Brumfield Gilmore to Strother B)

I.V. Kern Washington Court House

168. Kingston Ohio, Aug 25th 1878

Dear Cousin You will see by the heading of this that I am at home, this is the first time for over 4 months I came yesterday and will go home tomorrow We have all been sick since Ma came home but are better, my baby still has little brashes and will be apt to until the weather gets cooler . Mother is well and weaving She did take time to go over to see me last friday a week ago I was sick Father has the Neuraliga in his face real bad but he just came in with Levi from the depot and called for his supper. Barnums show is coming through and they are going to see it Well you have no idea how much I would have liked to went with Ma to see you if my little boy could stay with anyone else but me I might think of going but I cant leave him of a night he has been real sick, and has fell away so much but is still a load for me to lift. I think it did Ma good to go to see you Now I would love to see my old Aunty . Course Ma told you all about me while she was there and I can truly say if I was single tonight and knew what I know I would not marry the best man inthe world. I can see now where I could be so much help to my parents. Of course I do what I can . We had such an abundance of cherries and blackberries and will have plenty of plums and peaches but not so many apples. I have six turkeys and right smart of chickens Well I most forgot to thank you for those pieces If my children had not been sick I might have sent you some. but I had hardly time to eat when she was there She told me to tell you that Pa had better went with her, for he had $80 taken out of the house while he was gone never got any clue to it. She got the wrong ticket at Union and had to telegraph back for her money. and had to get another ticket at Dayton, then when she got to the Depot here there was no one to meet her, so she walked across by herself she said all the neighbors cheered her when she got xxxx here She said she never spent

that much money in her life that done her as much good and she does not begrudge one cent of it She often wished she was close to you so she could get a bucket of milk. Sister Katie took her picture with her. If I was able I would get you one of mine but I have none at all Levi brother would have the last one we had , he lives at Garrett Ind. is an engineer on the railroad. Well --- I have written all

P.S. Since we commenced this letter your Uncle has taken very sick. I have time to --- this evening Hope you all will excuse pencil writing this time and hope you will answer soon as I wrote to you before we went away and never got an answer We all send our love to to you all and Ma sends hers especially to you and all the rest As ever your loving cousin Lib Ogden.

Direct to Drew(?) Ross County Ohio.

(Note: Lib (Garrett) Ogden's mother Ann Longrear married Amos Garrett. Ann was a half sister to Sarah (Davis) Brumfield who m. Jesse Brumfield.) RCP

169. Dun PO, Wilson Co Kansas.

Dear brother I received yours of the 21 yesterday glad to hear from you all. as to the farm I have concluded to hold from renting it for 2 or three weeks are they going to thrash flax oats and wheat all together would be best for my part of all to be soled if they have clover seed coming on they have cut some hay if I should move back I should want my part of the hay and seed so you can be mute about that at preasant I left considerable hay and fodder inbarn they should cut up for me considerable fodder for my stock whether they get the place or not tell Mikesell he need not wait for my farm if he gets a good chance to rent a farm just pitch in as to crops failing in Kansas just what has come under my observation this year and last I think will average with Randolph that is in Wilson Co. but people have no corn or wheat out where John is I liked what you said to mikesell about the apples if you could get my part of the peaches too and if I do not come back this faul if you could make arrangements to seel my fruit there in town might save a little something for me there is a small like xxxxxxxxxx red winter apple called the Jonathan is one of the best eating apples then the most of the other young trees of winter apples are white and Rhodiland pipens but there is black apples Smith sider Northern Spy and several other kinds yes I was to have half and they were to market my half in good order and récive 2 pr bu for hauling same as grain as to the corn that they have soled I dont know how you will work to find our about that maybe they only soled part of it and fed the rest as they wroat me that they commenced hauling off but was so muddy that they quit If you will call at Isaac Thornburg xxx you can see our article and send xxx me the name of security and I can send them a card that things do not look quite as brite as they should likely they would say somethig to the boys that would cause them to do better as to calvs straying away no pasture and taking whole Sundays to find them and enquiring of everybodey must have been very large pasture I do not think my cattle ever left in such a pasture Tell the renters I Shall(?) From (Jesse Brumfield)

No signature.

(The date of this letter is probably in late summer of 1879. See letter No 166.)

Mary and Amy(Jesses Daughters write around the edges. as follows.

169 Cont.

Tell Mollie xxxxxxxxx I suppose -----(edges torn away) Ive been patching this forenoon and intend to go visiting after dinner if it dont rain. My love to all Amy.

I think your dress is real nice especially blu flowered one

(edges torn -- rec your letter last Sat we will ans soon that is if have time was glad to hear from ----- Phebe received a letter fro Jamie ----liny day before yesterday Pap talked some - going back this fall but finally concluded not to go but after reading uncles letter last night put him in notion that we had better be there but Mother dont want to go till next fall dont know what he will do yet Mollie.

170 Perry Feb 14th 1879.

Dear brother the present finds us in reasonable health hoping you are enjoying the Same the man that was a going to take that timber was here today he says he cannot raise the money he had the promise of it from his folks in Desmoins but he had written to them that he didnt expect that he would need it so they loaned it to other parties he says he will take it yet sometime in the future if he Can raise the money his name is William Russel You saw in the Chief that his brother died in Desmoins a short time ago perhaps it is just as well for you to keep it it is what I would call very heavy timber for this part of the Country but mostly elm and maple there is about 6 or 8 oak & locust and 12 or 15 walnut the walnut would perhaps make 5 000 ft of lumber it is worth from $2 to $3 here they charge 6½ cts for sawing the closest mill on the coon river if there was a mill close to your timber it would be more valuable we have worked up most of the down timber. that walnut that laid over the creek made our 400 ft of lumber another one that laid down for a number of years made about 300 ft we also got a few elm and some small linn logs we have hauled enough to make 5 000 ft of lumber off mine and yours together my intention is to build a house 16 x 26 1 ½ story the way we are living now we are cramped for room we have cut about 10 C(ord) of wood off yours cant sell it very ready at $2.50 per C in trade Charley Armstrong is with us this winter and will be through the summer at $15.00 per month The men that bought that corner of timber have taken nearly everything off

Yours truly ,
S(tanton) J. Brumfield.

171. xxxxxxxxxxxx.

171. June 1st 1879 Dwight, Livingston Co. Ill.,

Mrs Hunter, Dear Madam:
Although I am an entire stranger I address you a few lines by request through the kindness of Mrs Minnie House of Lancaster. Ohio (Note dont know Mrs Minnie House. perpahs connected with the Jacob Light family as one of their daughters named Minnie) RCP from whom we received a communication a short time ago stating that you wished us to give you what information we could concerning your realtives in this part of the country which I will proceed to do - to begin would say that we lived about two miles from Samuel Brumfield for about 16 years during which time they frequently visited us and we them when we commenced visiting

172 Cont.
so you see that we have to take our stock to the ravines yet which is considerable of trouble well I bought 2 cows one for 33 had a ~~ex~~ calf with her one that had no calf for 27 dollars and I bought a sod breaking plow 16 cut for $20 I have not made any arrangements to use that money I left with you It has been so uncommon dry that I did not feel like taken homestead and building on it as yet although I think that there is no discount on the soil I like it much better than when here last year what little corn stood on old ground looks pretty well over nee high
~~by stretching the~~
stretching the blades our horses do pretty well on grass can get plenty of it in ravines grass still dry has little to(dry) for wheat the dry weather is causing a great many to leave I was about 7 miles to the north west found a man fixing to leave farm house plenty and nice springs and poolsof watter he goes back to IowaI have been talking of looking out another situation
No signature(Jesse Brumfield)

Marginal Note from Mary:
Pap has written a slip I guess he intended for me to put in my letter but he hasnt finished it I slip it in anywayHe didnt say anything about the carriage I suppose he must have forgotten it He received a card from renters saying that someone had made a bid on it and wanted it and harness too I dont know what answer he made them I wish we had it and horse We have splendid roads Mary

173. Lancaster, Ohio, July 28 1879.

Mr S. Brumfield, Winchester, Ind.,
Dear Cous. It has been sometime since I received your kind and welcome letter. but have been too busy to reply. for which negligence I hope you will pardon me. We was glad to hear that you were all enjoying good health. had good crops o f grain &c We are all as well as usual-have been having some very hot weather and very little rainwhich is badly needed . we had a light rain last nightand arehoping for more today Wheat is a reasonable good crop with us Some fields are extra good I think the quality will be be No 1 Corn is not very promising on account of the backward spring and the present drought which we hope will not last much longer Mother and Father were up to Uncle Thomas Hunters last Sunday Uncle and Aunt were as well as usual Aunt Rachels family are as well as usual excepting Minerva Whose health is poor- Clark Hunter son of James Hunter was here was here on Sunday He says his fathers health is poor this summer the rest of the friends are well as far as I know I finishedharvesting on Saturday the 19th May & all we had very good luck with all- and expect a good turnout of wheat when we thresh. Mother received a letter from one of Samuel Brumfields neighbors in Ills a man by the name of Funk Mother wants to keep the letter so she got me to copy it off to send to you which I have done although in a hurry- I hope you can read it If you cant let me knowand I will try again I think the man writes a sensible letter and of course his name is not PETER FUNK- I received a paper from you a short time ago for which accept Thanks Will send you a paper soon I hope you will pardon this poor letter and write soon and I will try and write you a good letter next time
I remain very respectfully your Cous
I.N. Hunter
Kind regards to all. (See letter 171 for Funk missle)

1~~84~~.

Fredonia, Wilson Co, Kansas
Nov. 11th - 1879.

Dear brother we received your letter of the 2nd of the Month yesterday glad to hear of your health and prosperity as to your advice in the letter likely it would be good cannot see what the future will bee but I do not feel like taken that kind of advice just now I just bargained for a ¼ of land 5 miles the south east of fredonia ---- hous ---- and Pharry? ---- the school I have just writen to Job Hinshaw to send the money he has collected if you have that money on hand I left with you you could send all in one draft. or any other way if Job sends as much as ----- it will be all I need at present I wrote to Job to call at your house when he goes to send my money so you can see him without trouble if you are not at home xxx he can send his anyhow the base I think that Job was to see that they were paved and the renter had a greede to pay that much rent money I wrote to you for fear had been forgotten or neglected my renters do not write very much so I hardly now how things are there I got a draft from them calling for $ 29? which they sayed was for my wheat have the most of it yet shal have to go to building you can write give directions to me concerning the receipt you gave me for the money
I bought my land of agent Noe Lenens being agent so it might be such a thing that would fall through with Land in these parts are very rockey it looks black and rich I am to (pay?) $ 4.25? new land cars will be in fredonia in a few days wood 25 cts a load coal 8 or 10cts per bushel haul coal 15 or 20 miles wood from 2 to 4 rails 2.00 per hundred all read to split I sowed 26 acres of wheat in Hodgeman and rented out 35 acres more some of it as nice ground as I ever seen Jesse Brumfield.

1~~85~~.

Nov. 24th 1879.

Dear brother this is to inform you that I wrote to you two weeks ago and have received no answer as yet I wrote to Job Hinshaw at the same time have not heard from him I have made a bargain for a ¼ of land and want money as I have promised to pay all down for it also am building a house I (?) you send it by draft registered letter I thought that it would do for you and Job to send your money together I send your receipt to you in this letter we have nice weather rain some two ago enough for wheat no snow yet Cars wer to be in Fredonia yesterday direct to Fredonia Wilson Co, Kansas
my house is to be 20 x 22 2 story so as to give room upstairs
Jesse Brumfield
Having just received a draft from Job hinshaw shal not need thine at present so I took the(e) out of letter(receipt) as you will see.

BRUMFIELD Harriett
BRUMFIELD Jesse
To
Hinshaw, Mahala J.

Letter No _____

No Date. Copied by permission
A. John Hinshaw.

Dear Children I have taken my pen in hand this morn to inform you that grnadmother was laid away yesterday 11 Oc she breathed her last on 6th day evening about half past four oc. thought she had her senses till the last but couldent only utter a word at a time and two or three days before could only say two or three words at a time. She seemed to be happy seemdd to be praying even when after we could not hear what she said only see her lips move she clasped her hands then spread them upward & looked upwards not more than 5 or 10 minutes before she died she throw her hands out towards us when we take hold of them she press our hands once she drew me to her and kissed mesaid something could only understand home and beautiful city we had to have our ear very close to hear at all Pap nor Uncle Strother neither one thre when she died think she looked for them after death struck her if any one moved she turn her head and look Hamp come in front of her Some one asked her if she knew him . She said was it Jesse We wished they had of been there but she been low so long 5 wk I think I went four different times and stayed several days at a time neededtwo nearly all the time to wait on her Aunt Lib came two weeks ago day after tomorrow On last 5th day I told grandmother that Elijah's had a ~~boy~~ little boy she looked up and smiled said a little boy I been having pain in the back part of head & stiff neck last wk but little better now dident hender me from work though Carie had sick head ache seventh day after she got down there but was better or well enough to go to funeral well you excuse haste for Pap wants to go to office Now Johnie must be careful not to get hurt so often write soon we remain your unworthy parent
been having misty weather lately.

Harriett (Ellis)Brumfield

(Addition by Jesse Brumfield)

As mother writes about grandmother's death I will say a few words about her life She was born in Shenandoah Co Verganie (Strassburg) July 31 1801. Her maiden name was Davis She connected herself to the Christian Church when she was ly years old married father in 1822 They commenced holding meetings and founded Christian Church in the neighborhood(Liberty in Washington Tp., Randolph Co Ind) which she has ever been a member for 70 years. Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Not write much this time health generally good no snow on the ground been rainy for the last few days. love to all Pap.

(Jesse Brumfield.)

4964